THE TIMES

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Tax boost for lowest earners

Labour sets target of full employment

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR will today mark its first party conference in government for 19 years by restoring its historic commitment to full employment.

As part of his ambitious aim to give everyone the opportunity to work, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will announce that he is considering American-style plans to put extra money into the pay packets of the poorest earners by giving them tax credits.

Mr Brown today, and Tony Blair tomorrow in his keynote speech, will make plain that the overhaul of the welfare state is the centrepiece of Labour's crusade to modernise Britain. The aim is to turn the welfare state into an institution that creates jobs and opportunities rather than just relieves poverty.

The Prime Minister will offer Britain what he will call a new "bargain on welfare" in which the modern welfare state is changed to encourage work, not dependency. "I do not believe we can have a fair society without modernising it, without a fundamental reform of the welfare state, of taxes and benefits, and of the very basis of the deal between society and each individual citizen," he will say.

Mr Brown will affirm Labour's goal as "employment opportunity for all: full employment for the 21st century". In so doing, he will revive a pledge that Labour dropped in 1990 as unrealistic after it had been a policy objective since the mid 1940s. Labour is redefining full employment as giving everybody the opportunity to work; after five months in power it feels confident enough to revive it as a policy ambition.

The emphasis on creating opportunity comes as the Government tries to head off an embarrassing defeat this week on its proposals to impose £1,000 tuition fees on university students. Many of the 4,000 demonstrators who were outside the Brighton Centre yesterday, where the conference will open this morning, were protesting that the plans will hurt the children of working-class parents.

Tomorrow Mr Blair will defend the scheme and point to it as an exmaple of the "hard choices" that Labour will have to make if it is to secure its objectives.

He will announce a change in the Governemnt's welfare-to-work programme to give thousands of young people the chance to start their own businesses. Gr[illegible] to help jobless 18 to 2[illegible] become self-em[illegible] added to the op[illegible] scheme startin[illegible] The £60-a-w[illegible] would be paid[illegible] starting thei[illegible] and further cash help is being considered.

Mr Brown has been given the task of setting the tone for what will be both a victory conference and one that sets the stage for a programme of continual modernisation.

He is studying plans to give tax credits to the low paid, similar to the American "earned income tax credit" schemes, because he believes that alleviating people's poverty through their pay packets rather than through benefits will greatly improve the incentive to work. Under the idea, people in low-paid jobs who need benefits to give them an income to support their family would get extra cash in their pay packets in the form of a tax credit instead. The plan marks the start of Mr Brown's long-term programme to integrate the tax and benefit systems.

Other plans being considered to help the low-paid and to get more into work are a reform of national insurance to encourage work, the introduction of a 10p starting rate for tax, which Mr Brown hinted yesterday was likely to be in the next Budget, and — underpinning all the reforms — the national minium wage.

The Chancellor will say that modernising the Labour Party was the first stage. Now they must move on to modernising the economy and the welfare state. He is to say: "No Labour Government can stand by when in our society the children of the poorest have poverty and failure thrust upon them simply because their parents were poor."

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GILL ALLEN



Colin Montgomerie celebrates on the final green after clinching victory for Europe against America in the Ryder Cup

Europe soaks up pressure to win in the rain

FROM MEL WEBB
IN VALDERRAMA

EUROPE'S professional golfers survived a determined assault from their American opponents to make a successful defence of the Ryder Cup yesterday.

They won 14½ to 13½, their fourth victory in the last seven matches. The United States was 10½ to 5½ behind when the second series of foursomes were completed yesterday morning. Storms bedevilled the match from first to last, and it had been impossible to finish the day's play before darkness fell on Saturday evening.

Never in the history of the competition had a side won after trailing by such a margin going into the singles, but for a long time during a breathless afternoon the United States seemed likely to achieve the impossible.

The first match to finish was the first on the course, an off-form Ian Woosnam succumbing eight and seven to Fred Couples. Per-Ulrik Johansson put Europe's first singled point on the board, but the performance of the day came from Costantino Rocca, of Italy. Rocca defeated Tiger Woods, the US Masters champion, who was expected to be the most dangerous player in the US team before the match started. Woods finished the match having won only one and a half points from his five matches.

At one time the United States led in six of the remaining nine matches on the course, but Bernhard Langer won to give Europe the fourteenth point to ensure that they could not be beaten. Victory was eventually completed by Colin Montgomerie as rain started to fall again.

Reports, pages 29-31, 33

Fears for girl in Russian jail

A British teenager accused of drugs smuggling in Russia has been subjected to such "inhuman treatment" during 20 months in jail that she may be unable to defend herself when a retrial opens this week, her mother said.... Page 3

Killer forced to move out

Angry mob gathered outside the Swindon home of a convicted paedophile killer as police said that he posed a "considerable threat". Later, police said that Robert Oliver had moved away..... Page 6

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Nurse condemned to lash goes on jail hunger strike

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN, the nurse who was sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail in Saudi Arabia, has gone on hunger strike.

The 31-year-old nurse has refused all food since last Tuesday when an Islamic court ruled she should be flogged in public. Her protest is over the refusal by the Saudi prison authorities to allow her to make a telephone call to her parents in Dundee.

A legal source in Saudi Arabia said: "Under Saudi prison rules once a prisoner is convicted they are permitted to make a phone call to their next of kin. Lucille immediately asked to speak to her parents. She wanted to tell her father, Stan, how proud she was of the way he defended her the day she was sentenced. She was distressed when she was refused her call.

"As a nurse she is aware of the dangers she is putting herself in by taking such drastic action in such an insanitary place but she is also absolutely determined not to back down on what she regards as her right."

The only contact either McLauchlan and Deborah Parry have had with their families since the court delivered its verdict have been handwritten notes which were faxed by their lawyers.

Mclauchlan's hunger strike will cause embarrassment to the Saudi authorities who had assured British diplomats that they were improving conditions for the women in the overcrowded and stifling Damman Central Prison. There is concern that a prolonged refusal to accept food could seriously endanger McLauchlan's fragile health.

She has suffered several bouts of dysentery, lost weight and her hair is falling out. The concern is that she will not be able to fight off any serious infection.

Her family said last night they did not know about their daughter's hunger strike. Jack Irvine, of Media Watch, who represents the family, said: "We have no information on the matter".

The Saudi prison authorities are also worried about the state of health of Parry, who collapsed on the floor of her cell when she heard a radio bulletin erroneously reporting

Continued on page 2, col 8



McLauchlan: asked to make phone call home

Asda and Safeway put merger on hold

BY MARTIN BARROW

ASDA and Safeway have aborted merger talks that would have created Britain's biggest supermarket chain, it was announced yesterday.

However, City sources said the two companies would now come under intense pressure to re-open negotiations to establish a new supermarket giant that would rank ahead of Tesco and Sainsbury.

Together Asda and Safeway would have had annual sales in excess of £14.5 billion, trading from almost 700 stores. They would have commanded a share of 15.5 per cent of the food retailing market, slightly ahead of Tesco, which is currently the largest. Sainsbury would have been relegated to third place.

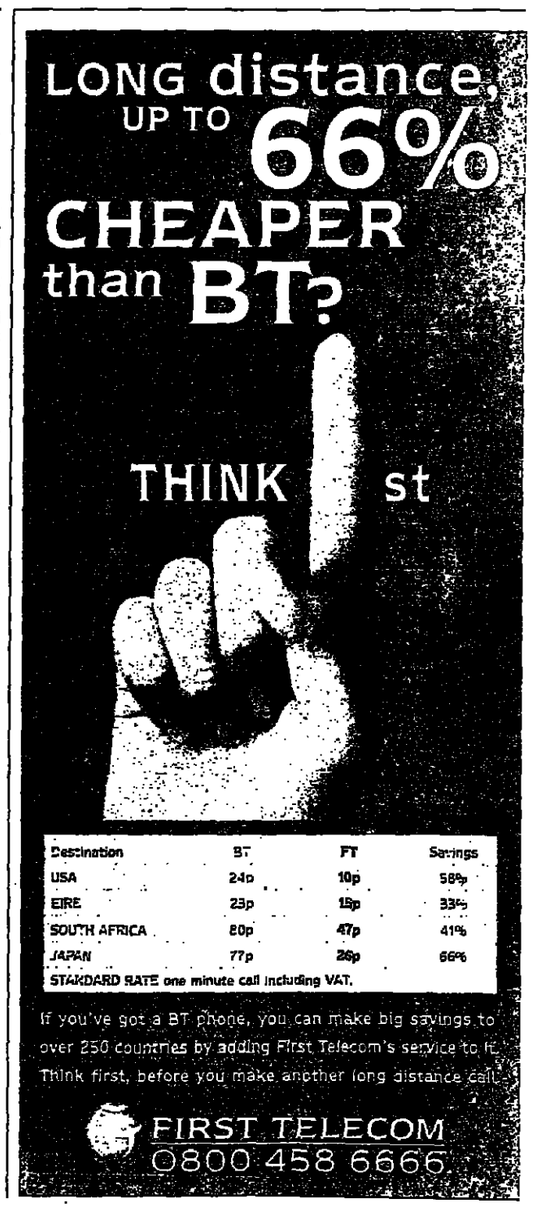
Talks between Asda and Safeway are believed to have started in April, before election, amid tight security, involving only a handful of senior directors.

The collapse of the proposed merger followed the disclosure at the weekend that talks were underway. Both companies feared that a premature announcement would raise the alarm in Whitehall and put pressure on Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, to stand against the merger on the grounds of a loss of competition before directors were ready to table formal proposals on these concerns.

An informal approach was made to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Office of Fair Trading seeking guidance on competition issues. Even though the merged Asda-Safeway combine would not have had a clear market lead nationally, it would enjoy a large market share in some regions.

Asda, whose survival was under threat in the mid 1980s after a series of disastrous investments, was revived by a new management team led by Archie Norman, who is now a Conservative MP.

Shares to rise, page 56



Royal Ascot to become the people's favourite

BY RICHARD EVANS
AND ALAN HAMILTON

RADICAL measures to bring Royal Ascot closer to the people are being considered by the senior figures who run the June meeting, the smartest social event in the racing calendar.

Major changes include greatly improving the comfort of spectators, particularly by reducing the number of people allowed into the grandstand. Ascot may also soon grasp the nettle of sponsorship.

The changes to one of the highest-profile events of the Queen's year are likely to go some way towards satisfying the cry for a more populist monarchy which followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Although sponsorship of races at Royal Ascot is banned, the odds against commercial hacking for the four-day meeting are rapidly shortening. The Queen's approval would be required but a greater and more practical problem would be providing facilities for sponsors and their guests. However, that could be solved if plans to build a new grandstand go ahead.

Two highlights of Royal Ascot are likely to remain untouched, if only because they are exceedingly good for business: the Royal Family's carriage procession down the course before the start of each day's racing; and the Royal Enclosure, which lifted its ban on divorcees more than 40 years ago but which still frowns on undischarged bankrupts.

The proposed changes have everything to do with the arrival of a new generation of royal officials who are gradually replacing the conservative old guard. Having dragged Ascot into the 1990s, and thereby seen attendance records broken on every day of this year's meeting, there is now a plan to turn Ascot into the "people's racecourse" for the new century.

"We have to think where we are going to be in the future. What will racegoers want in the year 2010?" one Ascot source said.

The catalyst for change will be retirement next month of Colonel Sir Piers Bengough as Her Majesty's Representative. He is regarded as a traditionalist but he will be replaced by Lord Hartington, whose radical vision led to the creation of the British Horseracing Board.

Racing, page 41

Chicken is poisoning 500,000 a year, says professor

Michael Horsnell on campylobacter, an organism which can cause paralysis



Pennington: writing to Agriculture Ministry

THE scientist who investigated the deadly *E.Coli* outbreak in Scotland, caused by contaminated meat, said yesterday that at least a third of uncooked chickens on sale are infected by campylobacter.

The organism, which triggers gastroenteritis and can cause complications including paralysis, is now even more common than salmonella, the bacterial scourge prevalent in poultry and eggs, and accounts for more cases of food poisoning.

Professor Hugh Pennington, who was called in by the Government as *E.Coli* claimed 20 lives, says he believes that up to 500,000 people are poisoned by campylobacter through chickens each year.

He is writing to the Ministry of Agriculture, for which he is in the middle of a £60,000, two-year study, asking it to introduce a phased programme of campylobacter free flocks among the country's 2,300 poultry farmers.

Each year 730 million chickens are killed for consumption in Britain where the flock stands at around 76 million at any one time, of which the professor believes around 25 million are contaminated with campylobacter.

The professor of bacteriology at Aberdeen University said: "Official estimates put the number of campylobacter cases in humans at around 45,000 a year. I believe that to be a gross underestimate by a factor of ten. At least a third of uncooked chickens on sale are infected. They may look appetising but some have thousands of organisms and if they are not cooked properly people will pick up the bug. Barbecues are an obvious risk.

"There is also the risk of spreading campylobacter through handling the chickens in the kitchen and not washing hands thoroughly afterwards.

"I do not believe a slaughter programme is necessary. It will not take too long to get a large number of flocks that are free of the bug, though it will take several years to get the majority to that standard. We have a serious health problem that needs tackling."

Professor Pennington said that campylobacter is endemic in many flocks and was transmitted either through the birds or by farm workers carrying the organism on their hands or clothing.

New procedures over handling chickens and monitoring them for the bacteria should also control salmonella. "It will mean a major change in poultry farming methods and there will be a price to pay. Inevitably the cost of the food will rise," Professor Pennington said.

John Roberts, senior poultry adviser with the National Farmers' Union, accepted that campylobacter is a serious problem.

"It appears to be fairly widespread in terms of human infection," he said. "It tends to lead to individual infection rather than massive outbreaks. You have to stop it getting into the breeding stock and the feeding stuff. It can spread in processing from one bird to another.

"It is difficult to keep out unless you have good hygiene on the farms but that means a higher cost. If a phased programme is introduced to get flocks free of campylobacter then that will lessen the price effect on customers. "There is no advantage in having a product that is going to harbour any organism and we await Professor Pennington's full report with interest."

The Ministry of Agriculture, which is awaiting Prof Pennington's recommendations, said people should not be alarmed by the incidence of campylobacter.

A spokesman said: "As with salmonella, people need to be aware of it when they are in the kitchen. We need special hygiene care to reduce the incidence of it. There is no question of shooting flocks. Campylobacter is a naturally occurring organism but it's not something chickens are born with. We are carrying out research into reducing the risk of them getting it as they get older."

Historic Adams-Blair meeting first since 1921

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is likely to meet Gerry Adams soon after this week's Labour conference and become the first Prime Minister to talk directly to a Sinn Fein leader since 1921.

Reports yesterday suggested that Mr Blair would meet Mr Adams and leaders of the seven other participating parties at Stormont shortly after full-scale peace negotiations start in earnest next week.

Such an arrangement would allow the Prime Minister to hold the politically sensitive meeting away from Downing Street, which would help placate Ulster Unionists. Downing Street refused to discuss Mr Blair's plans yesterday, but when Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, declared the IRA ceasefire to be genuine and formally invited Sinn Fein to join the talks last month she said it was only a matter of time before Mr Blair met Mr Adams.

The last time a Prime Minister met republican leaders was in 1921, when Ireland was in the throes of partition. Lloyd George met Eamonn de Valera, Sinn Fein's president, in the Downing Street Cabinet room that July, and Michael Collins, the father of the IRA, in the same place that October.

Mr Adams has been received at the White House by President Clinton and is now a fully fledged participant in the peace talks. Meeting the Prime Minister would complete his transformation from political pariah in the eyes of almost everyone except the Unionists.



Historic meeting: Adams and Blair could have direct talks shortly after the Labour Party conference

Tonight Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and Robert McCartney, leader of the UK Unionist Party, will address a protest meeting in Belfast called "Ulster in Crisis — Where Now?" that is designed to rally opposition to the peace talks. The venue is the Ulster Hall which has great historical significance for Unionists. It was there in 1886, as the Home Rule debate intensified, that Randolph Churchill famously proclaimed that "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right", and there that the Ulster Unionist Council was born in 1905."The DUP and the UKUP boycotted the peace process in July, and have rebuffed Dr Mowlam's best efforts to coax them back. David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party is participating despite opposition from some of his parliamentary colleagues.

Tomorrow a business committee consisting of representatives of the eight parties at Stormont will meet to organise the three-stranded negotiations dealing with new political arrangements within Northern Ireland, north-south relations and Anglo-Irish relations. Initially that committee will be the only place where Sinn Fein and UUP representatives have regular face-to-face meetings. The negotiations are expected to begin in earnest next Monday, the day Mr Blair returns from a weekend trip to Moscow. The Government has set a May deadline for achieving a settlement.

☐ The talks process could be complete by Christmas, if there was enough determination, Dr Mowlam said yesterday. She Dr Mowlam told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost:* "It's now in many senses in the hands of the parties. It's the parties now who can make this work. We could do it by Christmas if people really wanted to do it, if there was determination and we could build that trust and confidence quick enough, which is the problem — getting people to trust."

Dr Mowlam said the talks had resumed two weeks later than the original September 15 deadline, partly due to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The talks had some leeway, and she would not pull the plug on them if they reached the May deadline and were close to agreement.

She confessed she did "not understand completely" how last week's breakthrough, which will see substantive negotiations starting this week at Stormont, came about, although she suggested that people's desire for peace had been "getting through" to the politicians.

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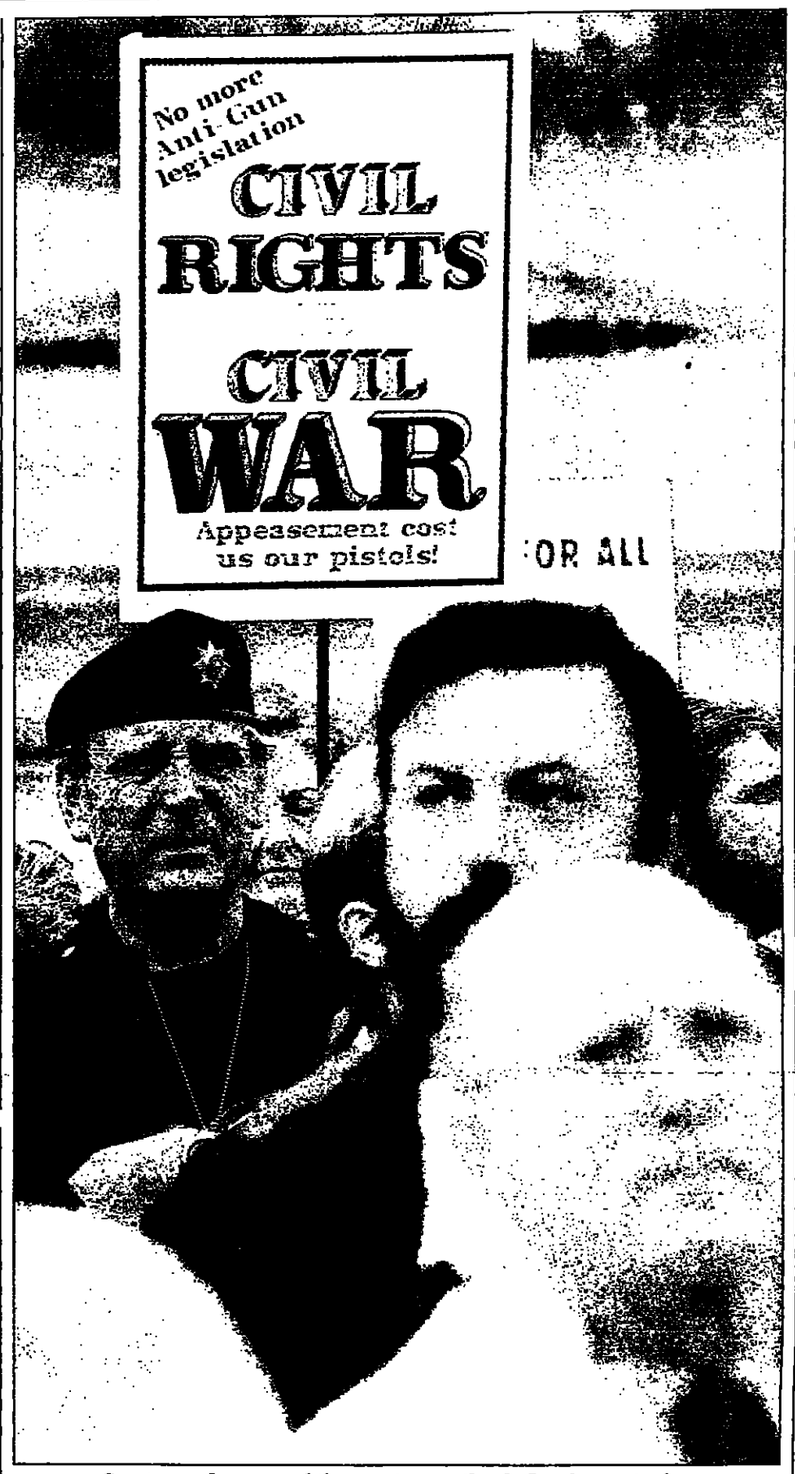
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Sportsmen from round the country meeting in London yesterday

One final rally as gunmen hang up their weapons

THREE thousand gun enthusiasts took part in a final national demonstration against the handgun ban yesterday before the deadline for the surrender of guns this week.

With little more than 48 hours to go to the deadline tomorrow night, officials from the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland said the march through London was a show of "sadness and frustration" that gun club members were being punished following the Dunblane massacre.

Shooting clubs from across the country were represented as the marchers, accompanied by a piper, crossed Hyde Park to the rally at Trafalgar Square.

Mike Yardley, the association's spokesman, said: "We want to see a repeal of the legislation so it doesn't affect our Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams, because what's being done is not going to have any effect on armed crime."

He said he expected that 99.5 per cent of handguns would be handed over by the deadline. 'It's the intention of the shooting community to comply absolutely with the new law," he said.

Police say there has been a sharp increase in the numbers of guns being handed over during the past few weeks. At the end of August nationally only about 58,000 of the registered guns had been given in. Yesterday Scotland Yard said the numbers handed in London have increased from 5811 last month to 12,753 by 21 September.

One senior officer said that in some areas the shooting enthusiasts are not only handing in weapons but also holsters and even gun safes leaving police with new problems over storage.

Northumbrian police believe they have received well over 90 per cent of the licensed guns. West Midlands police said a week ago they had taken 3,000 of the estimated 5,000 licensed handguns in their area. In Lancashire totals of surrendered weapons have gone from 1,193 in August to 2,600.

Guy Savage, a director of the Shooters' Rights Assocation, said many gun enthusiasts were simply taking the compensation for their weapons and buying other weapons which are still legal. They are buying semi-automatic and pump action shotguns or other weapons for new forms of competition shooting.

He estimated the national compensation package could cost £500 million. Mr Savage said that in Lancashire one dealer handed over four lorryloads of ammunition. Another dealer surrendered 1,000 guns worth £150,000.

Hague heads for ballot victory

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE was last night heading for a comfortable winning margin in the ballot of party members to endorse his leadership and his plans for organisational reforms. But only a third of the ballot papers were returned and many party members have witheld their support. Turnout was closer to 150,000 rather than the projected 100,000.

Conservative Party managers will be relieved by the total, even though it is barely a third of the 400,000 ballot papers which were sent out. However, hundreds came back marked "deceased" or "left the party". Strict secrecy surrounded the count, which began on Saturday morning and will be completed by lunchtime today. Mr Hague, who will lead his Shadow Cabinet today and tomorrow at a secret country retreat, will not disclose the result. The ballot papers will be kept in a locked safe at Conservative Central Office until the party conference in Blackpool next week. Only Mr Hague, Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, and a handful of other officials will be told the outcome.

The counting was expected to be completed yesterday, but was delayed by the sheer volume of letters which accompanied the ballot papers. Many of them protested at the decision to link Mr Hague's leadership with the need for reform in one question on the ballot papers. Others were letters of encouragement.

The ballot, the first of its kind in the party's history, had a beneficial spin-off. Hundreds of cheques, totalling around £2,000, have been received so far. "The party has taken an opportunity to speak to William," said one Tory official.

The result will be announced on the first day of the party conference at Blackpool next week.

Nurse rejects food in phone protest

Continued from page 1

that she had been sentenced to death. Parry, 38, from Alton in Hampshire has been receiving psychiatric treatment for depression.

A nurse who shared their cell for seven weeks, Susan Supple, told how doctors would regularly have to sedate Parry after she suffered bouts of hysteria. "All they did was give her drugs and medication to knock her out for five or six hours."

Prison authorities have been warned to put Parry under a suicide watch. There is concern that she will not survive what lawyers believe could be another year in prison while the Saudi appeal courts decide their fate.

It is understood the court will deliver a verdict on whether Parry murdered staff nurse Yvonne Gilford, on October 7 by which time the authorities are hopeful that a deal has been agreed with the victim's brother to waive the death penalty.

Defence lawyers have produced documents to show that Frank Gilford, 59, has agreed a "blood money" deal though he denies concluding such an agreement and says negotiations must continue. He insists he will not make up his mind "until" after Parry is sentenced.

Both women were yesterday visited in prison by a British envoy who told them about the diplomatic efforts to secure their release.

Lawson Ross, the British consul in Al Khobar, spent an hour with the women detailing the talks that Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, had in New York on Friday with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud al-Faisal.

Buckingham Palace last night denied reports that the Prince of Wales would appeal for clemency to the Saudi royal family on the nurses' behalf. A spokesman said the Prince is being kept informed of negotiations on the fate of the nurses but added: "This is a matter for the Government and Saudi authorities."

Ministers have been advised by Mr Cook not to make any public criticism after his meeting with Prince Saud of the Saudi judicial system. The Saudi Foreign Minister had said: "Any form of interference in the legal process could only complicate the issue."

It has emefged that secret overtures were made by lawyers and British diplomats in Britain and Saudi Arabia to settle the case while attention was focused on the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales.Meetings took place at the Saudi Embassy in London with lawyers for both nurses.

Realising that judgment was imminent in the Court of Cassation the suggestion to the Saudi authorities was that after seven inconclusive hearings they could use this opportunity to "release the women without prejudice" on the grounds the evidence was inconclusive.

A legal source said the Saudi Law Ministry had warned there could be an adverse reaction at home if it was seen to be favouritism to Western women.

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Teenager in jail in Russia 'too sick for trial'

Briton on drug smuggling charges 'suffering appalling conditions' and too ill to defend herself

FROM RICHARD BEESTON AND ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A BRITISH teenager accused of drugs smuggling has been subjected to such "inhuman treatment" during her 20-month incarceration that she may be unable properly to defend herself in court when her retrial opens this week, her mother said yesterday.

Karen Henderson, 19, who last October was sentenced to six years in a labour camp for smuggling 10lbs of cocaine into Russia, returns to court tomorrow after her conviction was rejected because of incompetent court proceedings.

Her mother Patricia Henderson told *The Times* that she feared that her daughter's physical and mental state was so weakened by the appalling prison conditions that she will not be fit to stand trial.

Her lawyer, Karina Moskalenko, said that under international conventions her client's "*inhuman treatment*" amounted to "torture" and that she had brought the case to the attention of the United Nations.

Miss Henderson's fate could become a serious political issue between Britain and Russia, particularly since Tony Blair is making his first visit as Prime Minister to Moscow on Sunday.

Mrs Henderson, who last visited her daughter on Friday, related a catalogue of complaints against the Russian prison authorities, whose inability to cope with the huge prison population and the crumbling infrastructure has compelled President Yeltsin to announce an amnesty affecting tens of thousands of inmates.

Mrs Henderson said that her daughter was being kept in a remand prison. Although the facility is only a few months old, in her cell there are 20 bunks for 70 women, two lavatories and an inadequate supply of blankets. Her daughter was moved there earlier this month, despite assurances from the prison authorities that she could remain at another detention centre. When she objected guards with batons and dogs took her by force to an isolation cell as punishment.

Although she has not been physically abused, she has witnessed cases of other prisoners being badly beaten, tortured by electricity and exposed to freezing temperatures, which caused frostbite.

Mentally Ms Henderson has suffered severe trauma. None of her letters to her



Henderson pictured in prison a year ago

family has been delivered, nor has she received any correspondence, apparently because the prison does not have a translator.

"The Russian system is complete chaos," Mrs Henderson said. "At one point this summer she was transferred to a new prison without her lawyers being informed — they found out only by chance."

Last week, when Ms Henderson was being transported to court for pretrial sessions, she was woken every day at 4am and driven in an unheated van on a journey that took up to six hours. She would not receive food or drink until returning to her cell late at night.

"When I saw Karen I could tell that her experience is begining to take a heavy toll," her mother said. "She was very disorientated. Her concentration was bad. Her memory was failing her. I am afraid that she will not be able to defend herself properly at her trial this week."

Ms Henderson was arrested by customs officials at Moscow's Sheremetevo airport in February last year, when pouches containing cocaine were discovered in a false bottomed suitcase.

Suzanne Vorstenbosch, a Dutch woman who arrived on the same flight from Havana, was found with a similar quantity of drugs. She pleaded guilty and has been sentenced to six years in a labour camp.

But Ms Henderson insists that she was tricked into carrying the cocaine by a man at Havana airport who sold her the suitcase after her own broke just before she checked in for her flight.

At her first trial last year she complained that she was unable to follow the proceedings because the court appointed interpreter was incompetent. Her appeal was upheld in April and the trial set for this week.

Statistically her chances of acquittal are slim. Russian criminal courts convict 98 per cent of defendants. However, given her ordeal and her age, the court could show leniency. Also, the matter is likely to come up at next week's meeting between President Yeltsin and the Prime Minister.

She may be eligible for the presidential amnesty planned for November when 40,000 prisoners, many of them teenagers will be set free.

Ms Henderson, was born in Holland but is a British national. She was studying tourism at the University of Leiden, in Holland.



BEN GURR

A Salvation Army band member playing in the harvest festival at Asda in Lower Earley yesterday. The altar was set up beside the wine aisle

Vicar gathers in harvest at supermarket

BY ALAN HAMILTON

GIVE us this day our weekly bread. And our perfectly round, red, tasteless tomatoes. And our Heinz beans on special offer. Oh, and a bank loan, a personal pension and a quick fix of uplifting prayer, thank you.

Six days shalt thou labour, and on the seventh thou shalt spend. Shopping is the new religion of the Sabbath, the supermarket its temple, and its adherents legion. Small wonder, really, that a realistic Anglican vicar yesterday abandoned his pulpit and held his harvest festival in the local Asda. All that was missing on the offerings of thanksgiving were the barcodes.

Six different Christian denominations, including Baptists, Methodists and a Salvation Army band, combined at the Asda branch at Lower Earley, Berkshire, in what may well be the first church service ever held in a supermarket, although a recent relaxation in marriage laws means that brides may now walk to their wedding up the fruit and veg aisle. The congregation of 200 would have been a more than respectable turnout at any country church on an autumn morning.

Churches do not greatly care for supermarkets, and not only because they lure potential customers away on the Sabbath. Earlier this year an Anglican priest advocated shoplifting from the likes of Sainsbury's and Tesco, on the grounds that they killed off communities by putting small shops out of business and thereby destroyed the essential social intercourse of small towns and villages. He might have added that they also empty churches.

But the centre of any community is now the checkout. Yesterday the Rev Simon Howard, of Trinity church in Lower Earley, set up his altar between the cigarette counter and the wine racks. "Obviously we would rather the supermarket did not open on Sundays, but they do so we thought we had better get involved," Mr Howard said.



Two hundred people attended the service yesterday

"The church still has a lot of issues with the supermarkets which need to be addressed. There are questions over morality and the treatment of staff, but if we don't talk to them, we can't hope to solve any of them. We are not condoning Sunday opening, but the reality is that they are open and so are we. I would like to see more of this kind of thing happen in future. This service was appropriate, because we want people to make the connection between God and the produce of food."

Making that connection may be harder than the churches think. If present-day children are to be weaned off the notion that a cod is a perfectly rectangular orange headless fish, or that God created beef in the shape of a neat three-inch cowpat.

But if clergymen feel they must take religion out of the church and among the multitude, at least they have Christian history on their side. Christ won few converts by preaching in synagogues: he took his message to where 5,000 frustrated shoppers were arguing over five unsliced Mother's Pride and a couple of Birds Eye frozen haddock fillets.

Now that Asda's proposed marriage with Safeway looks unlikely, could they now be contemplating an alternative merger with the Church of England? If so, their voracious tentacles, which encompass everything from petrol to peas, Winalot to weddings, would also have to stock unpopular and possibly loss-leading items.

Still, if the Co-Op can do funerals, so presumably could Asda, Tesco and the rest. The question would be: who would get the points on the loyalty card?

Two killed in joyride crashes

Two teenage joyriders were killed in separate car crashes early yesterday. A 15-year-old passenger in a stolen Ford Fiesta died when it overturned after colliding with a taxi in the Childwall area of Liverpool. The male driver of the Fiesta and four female passengers were taken to hospital. The driver was said to be in a stable condition. Two of the girls underwent surgery. The taxi driver suffered bruises and shock.

In the other accident a 17-year-old boy passenger died and five others were seriously injured when their Fiesta hit a wall in Liversedge, West Yorkshire.

A West Yorkshire Police spokesman said two 15-year-old boys, a 14-year-old girl and two 16-year-old girls were treated for serious injuries at Dewsbury District Hospital. A spokeswoman said : "Two ARE two were stable in intensive care. The others were badly injured but "not giving cause for serious concern".

Art scholar defends Hindley exhibition

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's most respected scholars yesterday defended the Royal Academy of Arts for staging an exhibition including a controversial portrait of Myra Hindley.

Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, one of the century's most eminent art historians and author of the world's all-time best-selling art history book, *The Story of Art*, said that art critics and the Academy should not "abuse those who have different opinions" about the Sensation exhibition.

He added: "The organisers and supporters of the current Academy exhibition are no doubt entitled to their views, but why must they also abuse those Royal Academicians who cannot reconcile some of the exhibits with the hopes expressed by the first President?"

In October 16 1780, Sir Joshua Reynolds said: "The Art which we profess has beauty for its object; this it is our business to discover and to express; but the beauty of which we are in quest is general and intellectual; it is an idea that subsists only in the mind; the sight never beheld it, not has the hand expressed it."

Sir Ernst, a former Slade Professor of Fine Arts for Oxford, yesterday reiterated his belief that the current avant-garde will be forgotten in 50 years, relegated to museum storerooms.

He said: "I'm not a prophet, but this is a matter of fashion." He has long been scornful of some of the latest contemporary art, seeing the contribution as ephemeral, even though it is entering public collections.

Yesterday, Sir Ernst rejected the argument that some of history's greatest artists were rejected in their day and only posterity will tell: "What is rubbish is the belief, or the clichéd belief, that all great art was rejected."

Widow pulls out of lonely hearts case

A WIDOW who launched a legal battle against a dating agency for failing to find her a new love has dropped her court action, claiming she is emotionally exhausted by the case.

Susan Constable, 39, was due to appear in court today to prove the Initial Approach introduction agency had matched her up with a string of unsuitable men.

The blonde claimed dozens of other customers were unhappy with the service provided by agency boss Sandra Menoni, 47, and launched a small claims action to retrieve her £376 membership fee.

Mrs Constable, of Greenloaning, Perthshire, said earlier at Stirling Sheriff Court that she was offered a string of "fat men, bald men, men who could not or dare not drive".

The agency, however, insisted it met the terms of its contract, which promised to match Mrs Constable up with at least four men.

'Bullies from Eden' under fire

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

LEADERS of the £106 million Eden project, hailed as the millennium showpiece for conservation, were accused yesterday of bullying landowners and misleading planners who will decide today whether to approve the scheme to build the world's biggest greenhouse over a disused Cornish clay pit.

Joan Vincent, a local councillor, said: "The Eden management is trying to give the impression that it has agreements in place for all the land it needs to buy. To my certain knowledge this is untrue and it is very misleading."

As chairman of the county council planning committee, Mrs Vincent said she had no direct role in today's meeting of Restormel Council, the local planning authority. "However, I live close to the site and I know the anger that exists among landowners. Some have been the target of malicious rumour-mongering, apparently because they won't sell their land."



Tim Smit, project co-director, at the open clay mine

Margaret Higman, a landowner, said: "They tried to pretend we were the only ones who wouldn't accept terms, and that we were holding up the whole scheme. In fact there are at least six landowners affected by the proposed route who will not sell."

Dawn Hambly, 38, who has eight acres adjoining proposed access roads, said: "I felt I was being bullied verbally into accepting their offer."

Neal Barnes, planning co-ordinator of the project, said: "We have had problems with some landowners. As we are not in a position to purchase land compulsorily it is up to them whether they co-operate or not. We are now able to offer two feasible routes into the site and we will have to demonstrate that land-sale agreements are in place."

The Eden project was launched in May by Heather Couper, astronomer and millennium commissioner. Its three main environments, known as biomes, will recreate rainforest, desert and Mediterranean climates under a 1km-long greenhouse, which will rise to 60 metres.

They would house 10,000 plants, including many rare and endangered species. Databases would be made available to schools and colleges via the Internet. But environmentalists say the scheme would worsen global warming by attracting an extra 2,000 cars a day into the Cornish countryside.

Construction work at the 34-acre Bodelva china clay pit, near St Austell, is expected to begin next year. A spokesman for Restormel Council said that tonight's meeting was to agree outline planning approval. Final decisions on detail would follow later.

If outline planning is rejected Eden's bid for a £12.7 million European Regional Development Fund grant, to be heard in Truro tomorrow, would be in doubt.



More 'ordinary people' to benefit from lottery

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to announce radical changes to the National Lottery to ensure that more money goes to scout and pensioners' groups and less to organisations such as the Royal Opera House.

In his conference speech he will say that millions of pounds for the good causes will be redirected through a "Community Chest" designed to ensure that lottery funds are moved "closer to the people".

The change was signalled yesterday by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. He said ordinary people played the lottery. "It's very important that that money goes to help ordinary people. Scout groups, pensioners' groups, tenants' associations, giving people a day out a the seaside, those sort of things can make a real difference to people's lives but don't cost very much money."

The Culture Secretary, interviewed on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, also defended the self-regulation of newspapers but warned television camera crews to beware of causing "media scrums". Mr Smith said: "Where you have a particular event, particularly if it's something that's affecting ordinary people — something like the tragedy at Dunblane, where hundreds of photographers and cameramen just descended in a great mass, at a time when people are in shock and grief, that is obviously very intrusive and not particularly professional conduct."

But he warned newspapers editors — who he said had indicated that they had learnt some lessons from the mood of the country after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales — that they were on trial for years to come. "I don't think we can ever rule out Parliament having to step in. I don't want that to happen. I want to see self-regulation be successful and there are some signs that it can be."

On the lottery, Mr Smith said it was important that the payout to good causes reflected the aspirations of the vast majority of "ordinary people" who played it each week. A system would be devised to make it easier for community groups to apply for lottery cash. "That's why Tony Blair will be announcing in his speech on Tuesday that we're going to have a special scheme for small grants," he said.

The result would be that smaller groups would not have to fill in endless forms or worry about which lottery board to apply to. "You can have a fast-track procedure, going straight in, putting in a quick application and getting a quick response."

Mr Smith admitted that he was concerned that some people bought tickets that they could not afford, hoping to win Saturday's double rollover jackpot. Tickets had sold at the rate of five million an hour in the run-up to the draw. Last week it was reported that one man sold his Datsun car to buy more tickets for the draw. Mr Smith said that it would be much better to avoid a situation where people were encouraged to buy tickets way beyond their real means.

He said that it was inevitable that some people would go over the top. "But on the whole I think most people, the overwhelming majority of people, like to put a pound or two on the lottery each week and have that moment of anticipation which then normally descends into disappointment."

Including Mr Smith. He admitted he had bought a ticket but not one of his numbers had come up. In fact, he said, he had yet to win even £10 on the lottery.

Tell us where we stand, say the unions

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR was challenged yesterday to set out the future role of the trade unions in the Labour Party. Ken Jackson, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, which is traditionally loyal to the party leadership, attacked what he called "divisive rumours" that Labour wanted to weaken its links with the unions.

It was time for Labour to appreciate its links with the trade unions, Mr Jackson said. He wanted Mr Blair to "spell out what he believes the trade unions should bring to the party in the future".

Union leaders are irritated that in the Prime Minister's recent speech to the TUC conference, in which he urged unions to modernise themselves, he did not acknowledge the unions' achievements in this regard. The AEEU, which affiliates 400,000 members to the party, said that unions had made "tremendous progress" over the past 18 years to modernise and adapt themselves to change.

Calling for an open debate on the unions' relations with Labour, Mr Jackson said: "If the trade unions are going to be an integral part of the party, then let's modernise and go forward. But if the real agenda is that the trade unions are irrelevant in the future plan of things, then let's debate where we are going."

Mr Jackson said his union would be spending more on seeking to persuade its members to join the party directly as individuals — rather than just being among the union's affiliated party membership, in line with Mr Blair's suggestion that this was the basis of the most appropriate relationship between the unions and Labour.

The AEEU was the only one of Labour's main trade union affiliates to hold a news conference yesterday, before the week's business begins. In previous years, all the main unions have held press conferences to announce their stances on the big issues of the Labour conference, but this year Unison, the TGWU, the GMB and the MSF all decided not to do so. Union leaders denied that Labour had asked them to keep quiet.

Protesters underline chances of defeat on tuition fees

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

DAVID BLUNKETT yesterday moved to head off an embarrassing defeat over the Government's plans to impose student tuition fees as thousands of protesters staged a demonstration in Brighton.

The Education and Employment Secretary held a series of meetings with delegates in an attempt to reassure them over the Government's decision to impose £1,000 tuition fees for university students from next year.

The Labour leadership is bracing itself for a knife-edge vote on Wednesday: several constituencies and some unions oppose the move. Several Labour MPs have also publicly expressed their concern, and have indicated that they would vote against any Bill in the Commons.

However, senior party sources made clear last night that Mr Blair was unlikely to change the policy even if the party suffered a defeat. They emphasised that the Government would not necessarily be bound by any changes in party policy.



BRIGHTON

Mr Blunkett's offensive coincided with a mass rally opposing the fees by branches of Unison, the public services union. Teachers, lecturers, nurses, housewives and pensioners joined forces in the biggest public protest against the Government since the election.

Hundreds of police marshalled the peaceful protest as it wound past the conference centre, past the Prime Minister's hotel, and on to a rally on the other side of the town.

Cries of: "Tony Blair, can't you see, education must be free," echoed throughout Brighton town centre, which ground to a halt for an hour yesterday because of the size of the crowds.

Martin Jamesion, a university lecturer from London who took part in the rally, said: "We are all Labour Party supporters. But we feel badly let down. The Government must not take its natural supporters for granted."

Gerry Steinberg, MP for the City of Durham and a member of the Education Select Committee, said he could not support the scheme. "I have this fundamental belief that education should be free and that includes higher education, and for the Government to think about tuition fees rests very difficult with me," he said on BBC 1's *On the Record*.

David Drew, MP for Stroud, said the fees would deter people from lower income families going into higher education. "That's something I'm not prepared to see."

David Taylor, Labour MP for Leicestershire North West, told the same programme that dozens of MPs had serious misgivings about the scheme, which would create bigger debts for those students who completed their courses.

Wednesday's debate is expected to provoke the most bitter row at this year's conference. The party leadership is also expecting opposition today over its plans to modernise the conference and policy making. Several composite motions have been tabled which reject the plans, but the big unions have indicated that they back the leadership.

Yesterday Mr Blunkett launched a fierce defence of the move to impose tuition fees. He said the proposal was about equity and he challenged opponents to state who else should fund the "privilege" for youngsters of going to university.

He told *On the Record* that two million adult students in further education and 500,000 part-time students already contributed to their fees. "This is not the abolition of free education at all. It's equity between the better off and the much worse off, who frankly have had a rotten deal."

He argued that the State spent £18,000 more on a student getting a first degree than someone who left school at 16. "Let's not shed tears for those who are going to earn a great deal more because of the degree they get."

LABOUR'S CONFERENCE AGENDA

TODAY 29

ELECTION VICTORY: John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, opens the conference with a rousing look back at Labour's election victory (10.30am). Delegates then debate Partnership into Power, Tony Blair's plan to reduce the influence of the party conference (11.15 am)

ECONOMY: Gordon Brown, Chancellor, outlines changes he has made to the Treasury and the Bank of England, before mapping out his plans for the economy (3pm). Speech by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade

NEC RESULTS: Peter Mandelson finds out if he has secured the prize that has so far eluded him - elected office within the party - when results of the NEC ballot are announced. Ken Livingstone is his chief rival for the last seat at the table (5.15pm)

FRINGE: Neil Kinnock at the European Commission briefing (Metropole Hotel, 1pm); Adair Turner of the CBI (Grand Hotel, 6pm); Ken Livingstone at Labour Left briefing (Albion Hotel, 7pm); "The Big Swing" comedy show (Dome, 8pm)

TUESDAY 30

NORTHERN IRELAND: Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, updates delegates with the latest on the peace talks in Ulster (10am)

HEALTH: Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, tells delegates how the Government is planning to implement its manifesto commitment to reduce waiting lists in the National Health Service (11am)

LEADER'S SPEECH: Tony Blair delivers the first post-election victory speech of a Labour Prime Minister since Harold Wilson in November 1974 (2.30pm)

FRINGE: Chris Smith and arts supremos on the new creative economy (Old Ship Hotel, 5.45pm); Tony Banks and Trevor Brooking on "Sport for all" (Grand Hotel, 6pm); Tribune Rally with Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Tony Banks (Corn Exchange, 7pm)

WEDNESDAY 1

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT: In his second major speech of the week, John Prescott outlines what his newly merged department of the Enviroment, Transport and the Regions is up to (11am)

EDUCATION: David Blunkett, Education Secretary, outlines how he plans to cut class sizes and boost investment in schools. Speech by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary (2.30pm)

SOCIAL SECURITY: Harriet Harman, Social Security Secretary, tells delegates how the Government is progressing with its review of pensions and its Welfare to Work programme (3.30pm)

FRINGE: Peter Mandelson on the Government's relationship with the unions (Metropole Hotel, 1pm); Bike to Basics Glenda Jackson on the motorcycle industry (Old Ship Hotel, 6pm); Robin Cook on referendums and electoral reform (Albion Hotel, 7.30pm); Arthur Scargill on justice for miners (Middle Street School, 7.30pm)

THURSDAY 2

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, opens a mornings debate on international affairs. Also speaking are Clare Short, International Development Secretary, George Robertson, Defence Secretary, and Jack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister (10am)

HOME AFFAIRS: Jack Straw, Home Secretary, outlines an overview of the Government's approach to law and order (2.30pm)

CONSTITUTION: Delegates take part in the first of two debates on constitutional changes, looking initially at reform of local government. Speech by Hilary Armstrong, Local Government and Housing Minister (3.30pm)

FRINGE: Peter Mandelson on the Government's relationship with the unions (Metropole Hotel, 1pm); Bike to Basics: Glenda Jackson on the motorcycle industry (Old Ship Hotel, 6pm); Robin Cook on referendums and electoral reform (Albion Hotel, 7.30pm); Arthur Scargill on justice for miners (Middle Street School, 7.30pm)

FRIDAY 3

DEVOLUTION: Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, looks back at Labour's successes in the devolution referendums before outlining plans for the Edinburgh parliament and Cardiff assembly. Speeches by David Clark, Public Service Minister, and Ron Davies, Welsh Secretary

DEPUTY LEADER'S SPEECH: John Prescott winds up the conference in his usual style. Watch out for the Roy Hudd jokes and poor grammar. As he repeatedly said during the election campaign: "I always thought syntax was the 23rd Tory tax rise" (11.30am)

FINAL SESSION: The usual singing of the Red Flag (one verse only) and tunes from some young musicians before delegates return to their constituencies and prepare for more government (noon)

Party's dinosaurs are on the rampage

The felt-tip revolutionaries' time has come, says **Damian Whitworth**

SOMETHING has survived. Blairite Man may have emerged the dominant species from the Darwinian struggle but strange, primordial creatures that once roamed freely across the earth have not been completely wiped out. Political palaeontologists sighted them on the wilder fringes of the Labour Party conference in Brighton yesterday.

They were to be found at a meeting of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy in the Corn Exchange. They were roused and bellowing loudly about the Labour leadership's Partnership in Power plans, which they claim will centre more control in the hands of Blairite Man.

The loudest din, echoing to the rafters of the half-empty hall, was emitted by the so-called Beast of Bolsover (*Dennis skinnerus*). He said now was the time for a great battle and growled the word "fight" a lot. First-time conference goers looked scared. Hadn't they just won a great battle that had marked the end of the Ice Age? The confusing truth slowly dawned; it was Blairite Man they now had to fear.

The Beast continued. Under a single European currency there would be 50 Eddie Georges (*Bankus governus*) at large, marauding at will. He warned that there would be a lot of talk over the next few days about modernisation. "You're gonna have it coming out of every ear'ole." His audience winced.

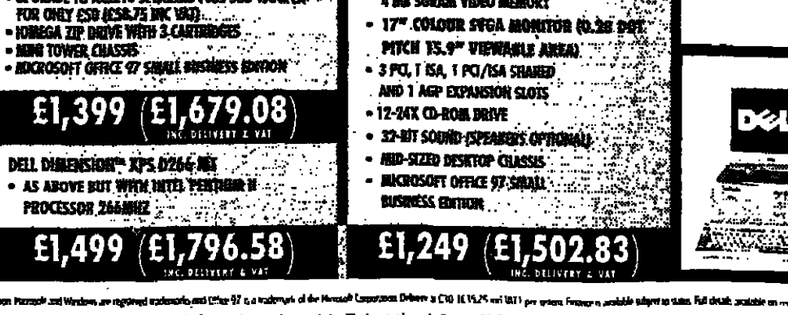
The Beast railed against another enemy: "Paddy Backdown" of the Liberal Democrats. Union with this species would be disastrous. "They are tin pots," he roared, his face now alarmingly red, his arms flailing.

There were barks of approval. One old dog said that the cage that ringed Blairite Man's conference lair and the posters all over it proclaiming the new Labour era reminded him of a prison camp in the bad old days of Stalin. It transpired that he was a veteran scrapper and he explained how the full might of the assembled hordes could wreak havoc on the conference floor when the speeches of Blairite Man went on too long. It was revolutionary, chilling stuff. "We'll do what we used to do at university and hold up pieces of card with YAWN written on them," and he held one up. "We've got the power!"

The junior pups scattered for the leader of the pack. Tony Benn (*Titlum forgettum*), puffed on his pipe and declared that a seismic change was imminent. "Capitalism is in very serious crisis. It is unfair and unstable. The next century will be the socialist century. We've got a century of experience behind us and if we can't make a better fist of it we should be ashamed of ourselves."

Ken Livingstone (*Londinium mayorum possibilum*) had a particular gripe. The elections for the National Executive Committee, in which he is competing for a place against Peter Mandelson, had been a disgrace. Rules said that candidates could not campaign. "But of course you can be acting Prime Minister," said Livingstone of the Minister without Portfolio, adding: "The ballot is closed so I can slag him off." And he did. Mandelson's speech on social exclusion had been "ghastly, but good if you have problems sleeping".

Then he got serious and it was battle talk again. "Comrades, there is everything to fight for and I believe we are going to win." There was applause, some people even stood up. Then, with fire in their bellies they strode purposefully, in a great trickle, from the hall. Ready to man the barricades. Or, at least to find a felt-tipped pen with which to write "YAWN" neatly on a nice bit of white card.



Sighted on the wilder fringes: Dennis Skinner, Ken Livingstone and Tony Benn

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Brown and Cook unite to quell EMU speculation

Ministers insist there has been no change in policy on early entry, reports Philip Webster

GORDON BROWN and Robin Cook joined forces yesterday to counter suggestions that Britain could take an early decision to join the European single currency.

In a concerted attempt to kill speculation that the Government might decide to go in soon after the launch date of January 1, 1999, both the Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary denied that there had been any change in the Government's position.

Mr Cook went close to ruling out a decision to enter before 2001, and both made clear that there was no question of a referendum to test public opinion before the Government came to a conclusion. The referendum would happen only if the Government decided it wanted to go in.

Ministers were trying to calm the markets after a report on Friday that Britain would join the single currency soon after the start-date sent share prices soaring and the pound plunging. Mr Brown insisted: "The position on Europe has not changed since we came into Government. We think it's very unlikely we could join in the first wave. There are formidable obstacles to EMU-entry. If we decided to go in, there would be a referendum of the British people. But we are not at that stage at all. It's nonsense on top of speculation."

He told BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*: "The Government's position has not changed. This morning we've got nonsense about referendums being held next year, and the rest seems to be pure speculation, and it is not built on any statement that any Government minister has made."

Mr Brown denied a suggestion that sources close to him had put out the leak about early EMU-entry to demonstrate to his colleagues how popular the single currency would be. "This has not even been discussed in the Cabinet or by ministers," he said.

Britain has to say within a few months whether it will join EMU at the 1999 start-date. Mr Brown confirmed: "I will make a statement for the Government at the appropriate time about EMU, about the turn of the year."

He emphasised the five tests he had said must be applied to considerations of British entry to the single currency, concerning its impact on jobs, investment and financial services, and the flexibility of the EMU system and whether it matched the business cycle.

The Chancellor said he had started an "orderly debate" on the issue with business, industry and consumer groups." He added: "The Government's position, and we are all totally agreed, is that there are formidable obstacles to entry. That's why there are these British tests. We are doing this in the patriotic interest."

Mr Cook was equally emphatic. He was asked on BBC TV's *On The Record* if nothing had changed his mind about the timing of Britain's entry into a single currency. He replied: "Absolutely right — and there has been no change in the Government's position. There has been no shift in the view that Gordon and I have expressed."

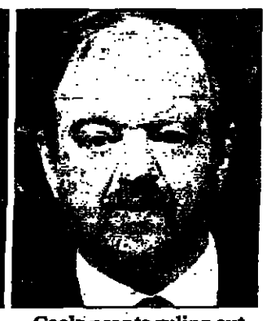
Mr Cook insisted that Labour had won its mandate on the basis of what he and his colleagues set out at the general election "and we are not to abandon what we said in that election". Asked if Britain could sign up for EMU in 1999, he said: "It is a possibility in the sense that we have never ruled it out — but Mr Blair, Gordon Brown, myself, we have all said that it is unlikely that Britain will join in the first wave and there are formidable obstacles in the way of doing so.

"We will make up our minds at about the turn of the year when we have got the final figures for this year and, if the answer is yes, there will be a referendum of the British people."

Mr Cook said he was "not wishing to suggest that the possibility has grown in recent days". But he said that, if Britain did not join EMU in 1999, it was unlikely it would join by the turn of the century. "If we conclude that it is unlikely we will join in 1999, the economic considerations that point against joining in 1999 are unlikely to change within one single year. But, of course, this is an option we will keep open, we will keep under review and, if we ever reach the conclusion that the British economy, and in particular British jobs, will be better served by joining, then we will put that case to the British people in a referendum — but that is for the longer term."



Brown: denied leak was from his contacts



Cook: near to ruling out decision to join by 2001



CHRIS HARRIS

John Prescott and his wife Pauline, right, enjoying their day at the races. Mrs Prescott backed two winners

Prescott backs a winner as Blair keeps with tradition

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AS is customary on the Sunday of the Labour conference, the party leader went to church yesterday. Seeking to establish a newer tradition in the afternoon, his deputy went off for a hooley at the races.

John Prescott led a gaggle of Cabinet ministers, including Gordon Brown, Margaret Beckett, Chris Smith and Harriet Harman, on a sunny outing to Brighton Racecourse. The Deputy Prime Minister was in ebullient mood as his wife Pauline backed two winners.

The source of much fun for Mr Prescott was Mrs Prescott's large hat. At one point, Mr Prescott deemed the hat to be obscuring his view and squashed it down, to which Mrs Prescott responded by cheerfully whacking him on the head with her race card.

Mr Prescott insisted that he did not bet himself, leaving his wife to place small wagers. She backed two winners, and her horses were placed second in the 2.30 and 4.15. Mr Brown was on his best behaviour, and with Ms Harman presented the prizes to the owners of Farmost, which won the 4.15.



Tony and Cherie Blair leaving church yesterday

Tony Blair mused in church on the need for energetic and conscientious leadership as he gave a reading at a pre-conference service at St Peter's Church, Brighton. Accompanied to the service by his wife Cherie, a Roman Catholic, Mr Blair read the lesson, from Romans xii, 1-21. "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."

The reading also reflected on the need for renewal at the beginning of a week when he hopes to reform his party's policy-making structure. The reading included the reference: "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The Rt Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Arundel and Brighton gave the sermon. He touched on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, saying that her interest in the marginalised was a lesson to all. The bishop said that political power offered a chance to do good. "But I must warn you," he said, "that vocation is not fulfilled without self-sacrifice and a resistance to those things which can affect all who exercise authority.

"The danger of power is that it can involve self-deception — even corruption."

Outside the church there was a more light-hearted moment. A woman told Mrs Blair that her husband was "lovely". Mrs Blair, replied, quick as a flash: "He's mine."

Blair is warned of party split

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR was yesterday warned by senior Labour backbenchers that his enthusiasm for European integration could split the party.

Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby, said that if the Prime Minister continued in his drive for a single European currency, the Labour Party would be as divided as the Tories were over the past five years.

The warning came as pro-European Labour delegates at their conference in Brighton cheered Neil Kinnock, the European Commissioner, as they welcomed him to a series of fringe meetings. The former Labour leader urged delegates to reject concepts of "labour flexibility" in Europe and argued strongly for a single currency.

But speaking at a meeting of Labour's Eurosafeguards Movement, Mr Mitchell said: "The lesson of the Tory years is that a party divided on Europe falls. We cannot want to bring that fate upon the Labour Party."

He said Labour Euro-federalists were like Militant in the early 1980s. "They are group that wants to force their views on the party even if that risks dividing the party," he said.

Lord Shore of Stepney, the former Labour MP and one-time minister, urged MPs hostile to Europe to lift their vows of silence over Europe to which they were committed during the election. He said: "It is more than time for Labour MPs and party members to make clear to the Government as a whole and in particular to our Euro-enthusiastic Chancellor of the Exchequer, that they will not permit a Labour Government to surrender its remaining national controls over the British economy to European institutions."

But in a series of fringe meetings, Labour Euro-enthusiasts emphasised their support for a single currency. Keith Hill, Labour MP for Streatham and chairman of the Labour Movement in Europe, said reports that the Cabinet were moving closer to a single currency "can only be good news for jobs, economic stability and lower inflation".

More women MPs called for

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

WOMEN MPs are better than their male counterparts at dealing with constituents' problems, Glenys Kinnock, the Member of the European Parliament and wife of the former Labour leader said yesterday.

Only an increase in the number of female MPs could make a difference to women who felt alienated from politics, she said. "It is only by electing women who prove that they will deliver on those concerns which women have, that we will restore that faith in our democracy," she told a meeting of the Labour Women's Network in Brighton.

"Whether it is in Africa or Los Angeles, if the cake is divided you can be sure that the smallest share of that cake will go to women ... What we need is a complete change of political culture. We are talking about a revolution of the kind that Marx never thought of."

She said that, compared with women in many other European countries, British women had a particularly raw deal over maternity rights. "I have a Danish daughter-in-law and she had two months off on full pay before her baby was born, six months off on full pay afterwards and then access to the most wonderful crèche facilities." In Italy, Mrs Kinnock said, nursing mothers were allowed two one-hour sessions away from work every day to breastfeed their babies or express their milk.

"If you are a British woman, you are lucky if you can escape to some loo to try to cope with that situation."

Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Women, told the meeting that the Government was acting to address women's concerns, but there was still "an equality deficit" in the Labour Party. She said: "It is still not good enough ... It is not good enough that only 38 per cent of new party members are women. It is certainly not good enough that we have well below 30 per cent of women representatives in local government."

Mrs Ruddock denied that Tony Blair's decision to offer her the job of Minister for Women without a ministerial salary indicated a lack of commitment to the issues facing women. She said that it was a "technical problem" arising from the fact that the job had never existed before and that the budget for ministerial salaries had been fully accounted for by the time it was created. "I wouldn't have taken this job if I thought it was a second-rate job or insulting to women."

Thatcher attacked by Clark

ALAN CLARK, once one of Margaret Thatcher's most loyal supporters, has blamed her for the election defeat, saying she was not a true Conservative (Matthew Beard writes).

In the final instalment of his *History of the Conservative Party*, to be shown on BBC2 next Sunday, Mr Clark says that her "ruthless economic Darwinism" ultimately destroyed the concept of society and the Tories' reputation as the party of government.

"Yes, the party had its greatest electoral success in the Thatcher years, but in demeaning the public sector, crushing the unions and crippling local democracy, great damage had been caused to the fabric of the British nation state."

Tories ridiculed by former media chief

BY MARY ANN SIEGHART

THE Conservative Party's former director of communications has launched a scathing attack on the conduct of of senior Tory Cabinet ministers during the election campaign. At a weekend conference, Charles Lewington described his party as "lemmings" and complained that many of its leaders "could not be persuaded of the importance of discipline".

Speaking at a conference at Essex University, Mr Lewington described how difficult it was to persuade Cabinet ministers to stick to one message. He used to say to them: "Keep to the message, and by the time you're getting bored of the message, that's just when the voters are starting to pick up on it." But the Cabinet ministers rarely got to the stage where they remembered the message, let alone got bored by it.



Lewington: said Tories acted like lemmings

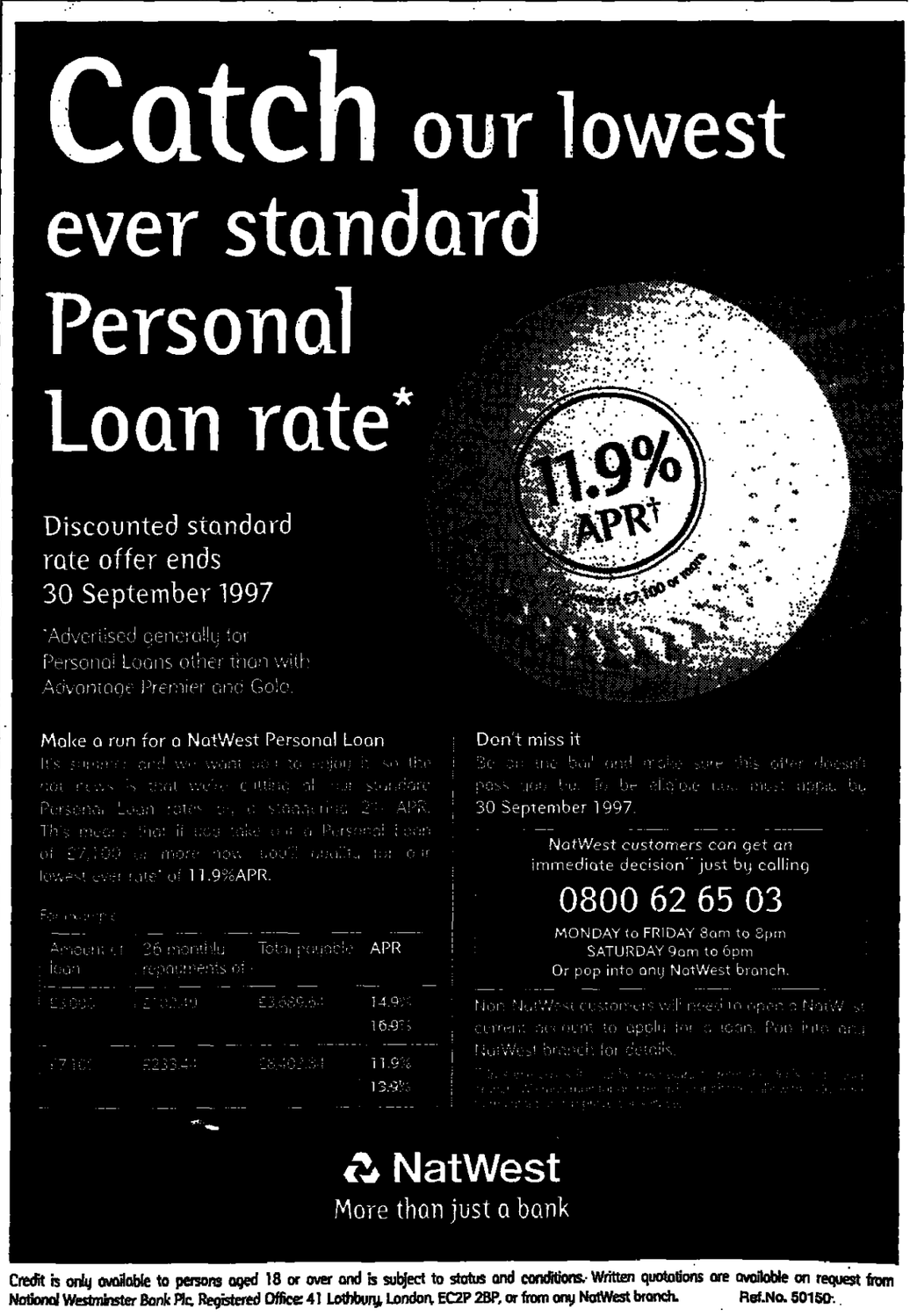
Mr Lewington revealed that Conservative Central Office had issued all Cabinet ministers with pagers, but they were reluctant to use them. He once, as a test, put a message out to them all to "call the Prime Minister urgently". Only half replied. Ian Lang, then President of the Board of Trade, apparently threatened to throw his in a Scottish river.

Mr Lewington had harsh words too for Kenneth Clarke, former Chancellor of the Exchequer. "It took six months to persuade the Treasury of the importance of a rebuttal to Labour's '22 Tory tax rises' slogan." Eventually, he claims, Mr Clarke was persuaded to draw up a list of 25 Tory tax cuts. But neither he nor William Waldegrave, then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, would use the formula.

The Prime Minister too was unhelpful. "John Major hated slogans unless he'd thought of them first. He thought they were undignified. Ken Clarke said the public would not be fooled by them. It has taken a defeat for us to learn the lesson."

If the party had hardened its stance on Europe, "we might might have had better luck with the traditional Tory press". But, he went on, "getting newspaper editors and proprietors in to see John Major was one thing — creating a natural chemistry was another". He also admitted that it had been a mistake letting Kenneth Clarke front press conferences on Europe.

Having detailed all the embarrassments that had haunted the party during the campaign, Mr Lewington concluded: "I sometimes wonder why it was only a landslide." He conceded that Labour had "fought a superb campaign". As for the Tories, "if you have a political party which behaves collectively like lemmings, you cannot be surprised if they go collectively off the cliff".



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Child killer freed from jail moves on after mob screams threats at house

Police say paedophile poses great danger, reports **Simon de Bruxelles**

AN ANGRY mob gathered outside the home of a convicted paedophile killer yesterday as police said that he posed a "considerable threat" to young men and boys.

Later, police said that Robert Oliver had moved to another area. Oliver, 43, was a member of a paedophile gang suspected of involvement in the deaths of young boys. He was released from prison on Friday after serving eight years of a 15-year sentence for the manslaughter of 14-year-old Jason Swift.

Despite changing his name twice since his release from Wandsworth prison on Thursday, he faced protests from residents outside a house in Swindon, Wiltshire, where he had been staying. A police guard was placed on the house as people screamed abuse and threats at it.

Later, Wiltshire police said that Oliver had left the area.



Oliver served eight years for boy's manslaughter

"We know where he's gone and the police in the area he has moved to will be informed," a spokesman said. "The media attention on him was intense and there was a strong public reaction against him from the people of Swindon.

"But whether they were the reasons for him leaving, I do not know. Whether or not the police at his new address disclose his details is a matter for them."

Earlier, Superintendent Tony Toynton said that he had placed Oliver's name on the paedophile register on Friday. "A meeting was held on Thursday between police, probation service, social services and the local education department, and it was decided that this man poses a considerable threat to the safety of young men and boys in the Swindon area," he said. Joint arrangements to protect men and boys had been agreed.

Last night a former chief superintendent who had helped to jail Oliver gave a warning that he would "kill again" and urged parents to be on their guard. Roger Stoodley said: "Robert Oliver may consider he has paid his debt to society, but I do not think he has even paid his deposit.

"He is a very, very dangerous man and the public should know where he is so they can be on their guard. It is my belief that he will seek out his sick pals and return to his old ways."

Residents had started to organise a petition to have Oliver moved. The organiser, Jaswinder Mudhar, 29, a mother of two boys, said: "We don't need people like him around here. He shouldn't ever have been let out of prison. I want him back behind bars."

Oliver, a member of a gang of paedophiles nicknamed The Dirty Dozen, was jailed in 1989 for the murder of Jason Swift during a homosexual orgy. Jason died in 1985 after being drugged and abused by the gang, who dumped his naked body near Ongar, Essex.



Whinney Close Farm, Kirkheaton, where police laid in wait for Alfred Moore, below right, who was hanged in February 1952 at Armley jail for the murders of Detective Inspector Duncan Fraser, left, and PC Arthur Jagger







Police remember victims of 1951 double murder

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO police officers shot dead by a burglar 46 years ago will be honoured when a plaque is unveiled in their memory today.

The plaque, at Huddersfield police station, is a tribute to PC Arthur Jagger and Detective Inspector Duncan Fraser, whose murder in July 1951 shocked a nation at a time when a double homicide, let alone that of two policemen, was almost unheard of.

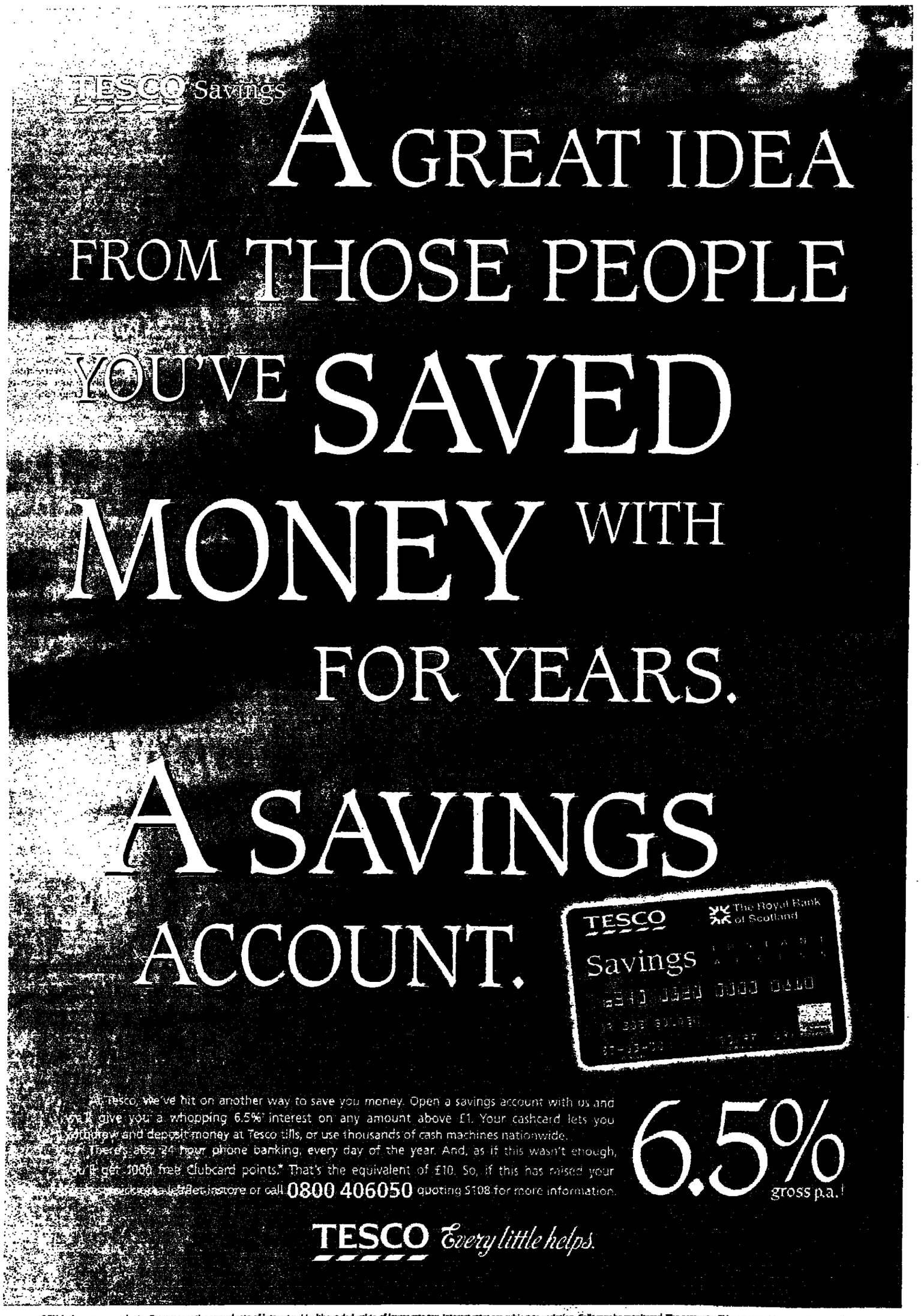
The case achieved added notoriety when it was learnt that the killer, a local farmer named Alfred Moore, had been picked out by PC Jagger in an identity parade at his hospital bedside hours before he died. That and a white hair similar to that of one of the officers found on his coat, were the only direct evident against Moore. But they were enough to send him to the gallows. Moore, 36, the father of four young daughters, was executed on February 6, 1952, at Armley prison in Leeds.

PC Jagger, 42, was married with two daughters. He had been in the force for 21 years. Inspector Fraser, 46, who was married with a 13-year-old daughter, had been a policeman for 22 years.

Late on the evening of Saturday, July 14, 1951, they were part of a police cordon thrown around Moore's remote Pennine farmhouse near Kirkheaton to catch him on his return from his latest burglary escapade.

At about 2am, five shots were heard and the two officers were found lying beside a footpath leading to the house. Inspector Fraser was dead on arrival at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Today's ceremony follows the case being highlighted in a history of Huddersfield police published earlier this year by Sergeant Steve Holberry, who is based in the town. Many young officers were unaware of the murders and he agreed to use the royalties to pay for a memorial.



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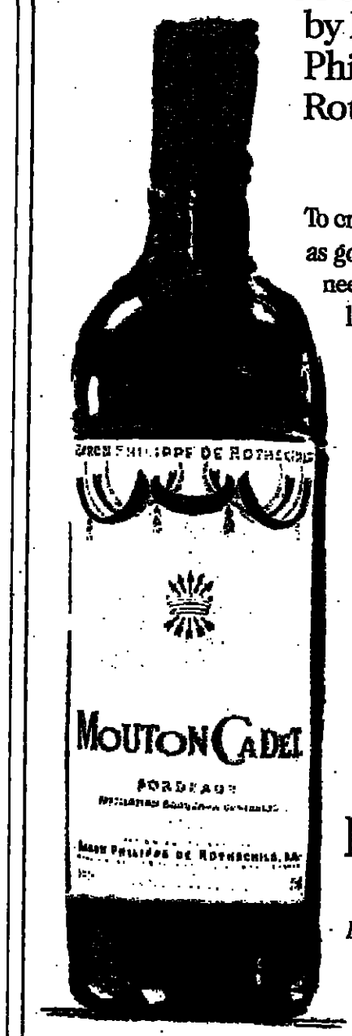
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Storm of protest over 'revolting' paedophile novel

Erica Wagner on a publishing phenomenon

A NOVEL detailing the crimes and fantasies of a murderous paedophile, which was widely condemned in America, is about to be published in Britain. *The End of Alice* by A. M. Homes will be published in November by Anchor after other publishers, including HarperCollins, turned it down.

When it came out in the US last year, the novelist Elizabeth Wurtzel claimed that it "made me sick" and Michiko Kakutani of *The New York Times* called it "revolting trash".

Such stern criticism harks back to the publication of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* in the Fifties. The novel has drawn further comparisons with Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho*, which caused a similar protest when it was published in 1991.

The novel is narrated by a middle-aged paedophile who is on his 23rd year in prison after murdering a 12-year-old girl called Alice. Known as Chappy (a reference to his affection for the lipsalve), this disturbed but funny psychopath corresponds with a college girl pen pal who is at home for the summer.

The 19-year-old girl — mainly fictional, as her world is evoked through his eyes — is fond of young boys. The prepubescent Matthew becomes the seemingly random object of her scientific desire. This jogs his memories of Alice, whose body he mutilates after killing her in a New York motel room.



Some firms turned down *The End of Alice*

Homes, who has said that writing the novel was a frightening experience, includes graphic scenes of abuse that even the novel's admirers have found hard to take.

John Sadler, in charge of new books at Anchor, said he had "no qualms" about publishing the novel. He said: "It makes your hair stand on end. It is so compelling, so brilliantly done. It doesn't shy away from confronting the toughest issues and is a remarkable portrait of a psychotic mind, of someone completely beyond the pale.

"I have no qualms about publishing it. People don't have to read it, just as they don't have to go to see *Sensation* at the Royal Academy if they object to that show.

"I am not at all in favour of backroom censorship — which is what I think happened to this novel early on and what I think has happened to the new film version of *Lolita*."

According to Stuart Profitt, publisher at HarperCollins, who read and rejected Homes's manuscript in 1995, "backroom censorship" did not affect his decision to turn down the book.

It was a question of literary merit. "I think whatever merit it has — and she can write — was outweighed by the nature of the subject matter. I wouldn't have published *American Psycho* either. I don't think the style justified the subject matter."

Homes, 35, who teaches writing at Columbia University in New York, is no stranger to strangeness: her earlier collection of short stories, *The Safety of Objects*, included tales about a boy's sexual obsession with a Barbie doll and a young married couple who revert to infancy when their children are away from home.


A. M. Homes: her novel has been compared with Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Straw takes politics out of crime figures

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to overhaul the way the twice-yearly crime figures are published in an attempt to cut the political controversy that surrounds them. In future the figures, which show the number of crimes recorded by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, will be released on set dates in October and March.

The first set of such figures to be published under the new regime are to be released on October 14 at the Home Office. The Home Secretary wants them published on fixed dates in an attempt to end any perception that the publication of crime statistics are being manipulated for political purposes. "What I want to do is to take politics out of crime statistics," he said.

Bar conference, page 12

Crash damages fear

Victims of the Southall train crash face complex battles for compensation because of privatisation, a leading personal injury lawyer has said. Des Collins, the solicitor representing 30 passengers injured in the Watford train crash of August 1996, said he feared delays because John Prescott had announced a public inquiry.

Murdered boy clue

Detectives hunting the killer of 12-year-old Thomas Marshall are investigating reports that a dark car with a cycle on the roof was seen in the area where he lived on the night that he vanished. Yesterday a memorial service was held for Thomas at his Norfolk village of Happisburgh. Three people saw the car and thought it was a black Saab.

Soldiers' pay delayed

Hundreds of Territorial Army soldiers serving alongside regular troops in Bosnia, the Falklands and Britain have not been paid since the Army wages headquarters switched from Exeter to Glasgow about six weeks ago. Information was still being keyed into new computer systems, a Ministry of Defence official said.

TV dinners in the soup

Millions of children may grow up with poor social skills and bad table manners because of a trend for eating meals in front of the television, according to a survey by Rennie, maker of the indigestion remedy. Of those questioned, 49 per cent ate their evening meal while watching soap operas. Sixty per cent of Scots questioned ate TV dinners nightly.

Princess's promise kept

Prince Harry is expected to accompany his father, the Prince of Wales, on a five-day official visit to southern Africa at the end of October as the guest of President Mandela. While his father carries out official duties the 13-year old prince, who will be on half-term holiday, will spend three days at a game reserve to which his mother had promised to take him.

Rail service warning

Rail companies have warned industry regulators that service improvements will be ruined by over-zealous interference. Senior industry figures have joined forces to protest at criticisms from John Swift, the rail regulator, most recently aimed at Connex South Central, which was reprimanded for dropping a plan to increase services.

Limerick writer angers city with childhood memoir


Frank McCourt: has no regrets about his book

A PULITZER prize-winning author who returns to his home town of Limerick next month to become its writer-in-residence faces an unfriendly welcome from locals upset by his portrayal of the city.

Many residents of Limerick have taken against Frank McCourt after the international success of his memoir *Angela's Ashes*, a harshly graphic account of childhood in one of the city's poorest districts, which they say is unpleasant and unfair.

McCourt's opponents are planning protests to make his visit as uncomfortable as possible and are threatening violent action against the University of Limerick if it continues with its plans to give him an honorary doctorate and the title of writer-in-residence. Tempers are so frayed that one man tore up a copy of the book at McCourt's recent signing session in the city centre.

McCourt has enraged people with his account of life in the rat-infested tenements on the Limerick Lanes. He lived in the city from the age of four until his escape from hunger and poverty at the age of 19 when he emigrated to America. His book descibes his harrowing childhood at the mercy of a drunken father, downtrodden mother, unfriendly neighbours and cruel teachers and priests.

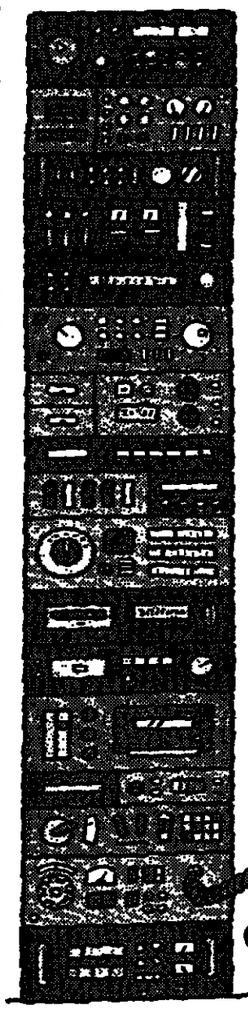
The book, now a year old, is still on the bestseller list in Britain, Ireland, America, France and Germany. But many in Limerick claim that it is a false and exaggerated version of the poverty endured. Over 100 disaffected and angry people have collaborated on a a book by Gerard Hannon called *Ashes*, which claims to be the "real" memoirs of life in the Limerick Lanes.

Hannon's book will be published by his own company next week and, while lacking the literary grace of McCourt, claims to "set the record straight" about life in Limerick.

Mr Hannon said: "I have read a lot of books but none has moved or angered me so much. We accept that we were poor, but we are not bitter about our city as Frank McCourt is. I love Limerick and the people who grew up here are well-adjusted, positive-thinking, happy people."

McCourt, who lives in New York, has accused the Limerick protesters of organising a vendetta against him. He told *The Times* that he was suffering from the same narrow-minded bigotry that lead to the banning of John McGahern's books in the Sixties.

"It is the same old story that you cannot say the slightest thing negative. What they want is an image of Limerick as a happy place with dimple-faced colleens drinking fresh milk and eating buttery potatoes. I have no regrets about the frankness of the book."



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Clive of India's gold found in pirate wreck

John Vincent charts a chest of coins from Bank of England to sea floor

A HOARD of gold coins belonging to a founding father of the British Empire has been discovered at the bottom of the Indian Ocean, almost 250 years after it was lost in a storm.

The sunken treasure, which experts believe was the property of Clive of India, the general whose victory at the battle of Plassey secured the subcontinent for Britain, is expected to fetch £500,000 at auction in London later this year.

The discovery of the money in a pirate ship has created an historical puzzle. What is beyond dispute is that in 1755 Robert Clive, later Lord Clive of Plassey, withdrew £3,000 in gold coins from the Bank of England, an immense sum in the 18th century. The money was intended to finance his business ventures with the East India Company, founded to exploit the riches of empire.

On April 22, 1755, Clive set sail for India aboard the merchantman *Stretham*, stowing his gold in a sister ship, the *Doddington*. The manifest records: "One chest of gold, marked R.C. No 1 qt", weighing just over 653 ounces.

Clive's decision to sail separately was wise. The *Doddington*, while rounding the Cape of Good Hope early on July 17, hit a reef and sank in 20 minutes with the loss of 247 lives.

As he sailed on to Bombay, oblivious to the tragedy, 23 survivors were shipwrecked on Bird Island, off Port Elizabeth. After six months, the chief mate and 16 others escaped on a liferaft made from wreckage and lived to tell Clive of his loss.



Portuguese pecas from a £3,000 haul now worth £500,000

During the next 200 years Bird Island became the the focus for stories of buried treasure as adventurers and pirates dreamt of recovering Clive's gold. The myths and stories appeared about to be supplanted by the truth when, in 1977, a team of international divers discovered the wreck of the *Doddington*. But a search of the wreck yielded copper ingots, silver coins and cannon — but no gold.

Almost 20 years later, in 1996, the team returned to the *Doddington* and, using more modern methods, carried out an exhaustive search, but to no avail.

Just as the diving team was reconciling itself to an expensive failure, it stumbled upon the wreck of a smaller, faster, vessel from the same era, heavily armed with more than 30 cannon and almost certainly the craft of a pirate or privateer.

To the astonishment of the salvage experts, the ship contained 1,400 gold coins of the type and date that Clive had withdrawn from the Bank of England 242 years earlier. The gold weighed 620 ounces, 5 per cent short of Clive's consignment.

The discovery of Clive's gold solves one mystery but creates another. Historians are left pondering how the gold came to be in the hands of a pirate. Was it stolen from the *Doddington* before it sunk? Was the treasure rescued from the sinking ship, buried on Bird island and recovered by profiteers?

Richard Bishop, coin specialist at Spink's auctioneers, who will be conducting the sale in November, is unable to give definitive answers but is confident of the authenticity of the find.

"From an expert's point of view, it is 99.9 per cent certain that this is Clive's gold because the dates are so conclusive," he said. "Everything fits.

"The vast majority of the coins are dated 1753 and 1754, which is what Clive would have taken.

"Thereafter, however, everything is shrouded in mystery. If Robert Louis Stevenson were writing the story, he would have one of the survivors burying the treasure, making a map with 'X marks the spot' and returning later with a crew who would be slitting each other's throats to get to it first.

"The truth is, nobody knows. None of the survivors appeared to know what happened to it and there was no sudden surge of spending by anyone back in England. It really is an extraordinary riddle — one we will presumably never solve." Mr Bishop believes that the missing 5 per cent of coins were spilled, stolen or doled out as commission.

The treasure is being sold by a Florida coin expert to raise money for the diving team to continue the exploration. The exact location of the wreck and the identity of the divers is being kept secret to stop opportunists from profiting from the discovery.

Among the 629 lots up for auction, the earlier specimens are considered the most valuable. Several should fetch more than £4,000 and one, a 1727 Portuguese peca minted in Rio de Janeiro, is estimated at £7,000.



Robert Clive was intending to finance his ventures with the East India Company

Moody boy who became true hero of Empire

BY JOHN VINCENT

ROBERT CLIVE may have lost his chest of gold when the *Doddington* sank in 1755, but it was only a drop in the ocean compared to the vast fortune he made from his adventures.

Clive, born in 1725, was a difficult young man who was educated at several London schools without distinction. At 18, he was sent to Madras in the service of the English East India Company where he was described as moody and quarrelsome and once fought a duel.

As Britain fought to secure the subcontinent, Clive was drawn into military service where he quickly emerged as a leader of men. In 1752 he helped establish British power when he led Anglo-Indian troops in driving French forces from the Varnatic region of southeast India.

The former clerk was already a hero when he returned to England for two years in 1753, serving as a Whig MP. But his greatest triumph came on his return to India when he scored a crushing victory over a Bengali army and French auxiliaries at Plassey in 1757, avenging the massacre of British prisoners a year earlier in the now legendary Black Hole of Calcutta.

He returned to England in 1760, re-entered Parliament and two years later became an Irish peer. In 1764 he went back to India as governor for the East India Company.

Clive left Calcutta in 1767 and in 1773 was forced to defend himself in Parliament against charges of corruption. Two years later, despite being exonerated, he shot himself. He was 49.

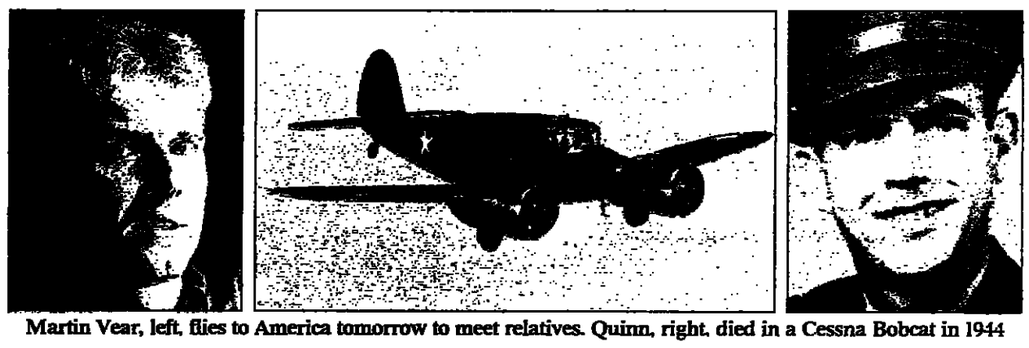
Journey's end for 17-year quest to trace families of dead airmen

A Briton is to return the effects of US pilots who died in a crash in 1944, writes **Kathryn Knight**

A BRITISH man is to fly to Louisiana tomorrow to return the possessions of five US airman killed when their aircraft crashed in Hampshire 53 years ago. It has taken Martin Vear 17 years to track down the relatives of the five, who died when their Cessna Bobcat crashed into the thick woods near his home in Ampfield.

The five Thunderbolt pilots, 1st Lieutenant Walter Hayes, 2nd Lieutenant Dale Frances, 2nd Lieutenant Duran F. Quinn, Captain Norman Nelson and Captain Billy B. Bryan, had been sent to France after D-Day and were flying back in the light transport aircraft to their base in Lymington, Hampshire. Duran Quinn was celebrating his 24th birthday on the day he died and two of the men had just been promoted.

Mr Vear was 16 when he found a small piece of green sheet metal as he explored the woods near his home in the summer of 1980. After hours of exploration, Mr Vear saw metal glinting through the dense foliage. "I hacked my way through and found bits of metal lying in the bushes. They had lain untouched for 35 years." Among the remains lay two gold watches, a stainless steel watch with the hands rozen at 12.10, the time of the crash, and a gold and silver pilot identification bracelet. The back showed it had been worn by a Duran F. Quinn, serial number 0695340.



Martin Vear, left, flies to America tomorrow to meet relatives. Quinn, right, died in a Cessna Bobcat in 1944

"I realised I wanted to find the family of Duran Quinn and give them back the bracelet of the man they had lost decades ago."

Mr Vear began asking villagers what they remembered. He found that the crash had occurred on July 2, 1944, shortly after midday. His search only accelerated three years ago during a visit to an American military cemetery in Coton, Cambridgeshire. "I spend hours looking round all the graves but I couldn't find Duran's name. I went to the superintendent of the cemetery and he could not find a record either. He suggested that the families had had the bodies flown back to America, which turned out to be the case."

However, furnished with names and addresses of potential contacts from the superintendnent, Mr Vear sent questionnaires to hundreds of people, "those who lived locally, people in Lymington, people who had US relatives." With the eyewitness responses he received, Mr Vear then wrote to the Air University records section in Alabama. "I told them I thought the plane was a Cessna Bobcat, a twin engine light transport plane," he said.

"Two weeks later I got an e-mail from them saying they had found the crash report. The plane was a Cessna Bobcat and they had the names and ranks of the five men who died."

After months of lobbying, Mr Vear managed to obtain federal records from various US states giving details of relatives of the dead men. This year he finally tracked down Jack C. Quinn and Marie Quinn Cole, the airman's brother and sister.

Tomorrow he will meet them at Duran's grave in Oakdale, Louisiana, before handing over Duran's ID card and watch at a reception to be attended by contemporaries of the five pilots from the 50th Fighter Group.

During his visit Mr Vear, a 33-year-old quantity surveyor, also hopes to meet Howard Reed, the US airman who would have travelled on the aircraft instead of Quinn if he had not suffered a black eye in an apple fight with him. He added: "I have also just been contacted by a library in the US who say they have found Captain Bryan's mother, who is still alive, and his sister. I hope to meet them too."

Next July, on the 54th anniversary of the crash, the villagers of Ampfield plan to unveil a memorial to the five victims in the woods where the aircraft crashed, at a ceremony attended by the airmen's families.

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Moody boy who became true hero of Empire

By John Vincent

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Playgroups forced to the wall by expansion of primary schools

More closures are expected as the nursery voucher scheme is replaced, writes **David Charter**

MIKE SCOTT



Yvonne Harling, supervisor at the Wildwood playgroup, which is facing closure after 26 years as a nearby school takes more four-year-olds

MORE than 800 playgroups have been forced out of business by schools expanding their reception classes to take four-year-olds and their nursery voucher income, a survey shows today.

National playgroup leaders said the Government would find it impossible to meet its long-term aim of places for most three-year-olds if the rate of disappearance continued. A further 1,400 of the country's 19,000 remaining playgroups, which take children aged two to four, say they are at risk of closure next year, the Pre-School Learning Alliance said.

The Government responded yesterday by promising to consult on a size limit for reception classes, which are commonly bigger than 30 pupils. Playgroups are strictly limited to eight children for every adult.

Nursery vouchers, worth £1,100 a year, were introduced nationally in April by the previous Government and encouraged many primary schools to develop their reception classes to provide places in exchange for the money.

Scrapping the vouchers was one of the first acts of the new Government, but the local Early Years Development Plans which will replace them next April will still fund schools for every four-year-old they attract. The plans, to be drawn up by local committees representing playgroups, nurseries and schools, are not expected to reopen those playgroups that have closed.

Margaret Lochrie, chief executive of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said: "As a result of closures in the past year, the scant stock of early years provision in Britain has been further depleted. Many younger children now have nowhere to go."

A survey of PLA members revealed 640 playgroups had closed since last September and a further 160 would close before Christmas. "The reason for closure in the majority of cases is that the four-year-olds are going to reception class in school," she said. "Often parents make this decision on the basis of very little information. They think that, as school is good for your children, then more must mean better. Parents also come under pressure from primary head teachers to send their children early to secure a place."

She pointed to evidence that large school classes were detrimental for small children, including research by the National Foundation for Educational Research published earlier this month which found that four-year-olds could fall behind in reception groups. Mrs Lochrie added: "Although the vouchers have gone, the underlying principle remains that funding follows the child and the more four-year-olds you get, the more money you get. The Government should take steps to prevent any further closures if it wants to have places for three-year-olds. That might mean putting some money into these groups to make them viable."

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said there was no extra money available to subsidise private playgroups. He added: "We will have a consultation towards the end of this year and one of the questions will be whether there should be a limit on reception class sizes."

Mrs Lochrie said rural areas had particularly suffered, with the most closures coming in Devon and Hereford and Worcester. She said: "One piece of research after another has suggested that that playgroups add something important to communities. Playgroups incorporate many values at the heart of this Government's message but we are about to go down the plughole."

Battle to attract four-year-olds spells end for community asset

Financial pressure on local primary schools means a loss of choice for parents, reports ***David Charter***

WILDWOOD Playgroup will be lucky to survive another year as its local primary school expands to take more four-year-olds.

The group was founded 26 years ago by parents on the Wildwood housing estate in Stafford and started this month with more than 75 children on its register.

But after Christmas the number will halve when nearby Barnfields Primary School starts taking children the term after they turn four, instead of waiting until September.

The school admits the reason is "purely financial" but argues that if it does not follow the trend to take younger children then they will be lost to other local primary schools.

Yvonne Harling, superviser of Wildwood Playgroup, said that local families, many of whom are single-parent, would lose out if the group closed. "I am extremely worried about the future of the playgroup. We have been going for 26 years and feel we have done a good job for the community," she said. "The parents have been happy with what we have done and it is a shame to see it falling off. You have to have a certain number of children to make it pay and we cannot suddenly double our charges."

David Morton, head teacher of Barnfields Primary School, said it was creating a "pre-reception" class which would observe national guidelines for nursery schools of one adult for every 13 children. "We are highly dependant on the funding that each child brings," Mr Morton said. "The problem is that if we do not follow the pattern that has been adopted in other local schools, we will lose children who will go to their nurseries and stay at the school."

He added: "The nursery voucher scheme has been abandoned but this is nursery vouchers in another guise. Parents quite naturally are going to take advantage of the school because it gives them free educational provision for at least 2½ hours a day.

"I sympathise with the playgroups' situation and realise that this will reduce the diversity of provision, but it is down to finance. My preference would be to move the playgroup on to our land and administer the whole lot, but we do not have the accommodation for them."

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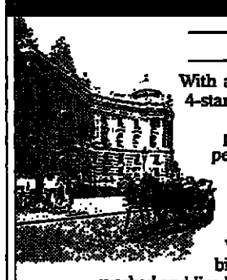
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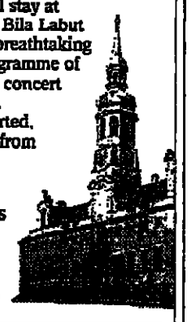


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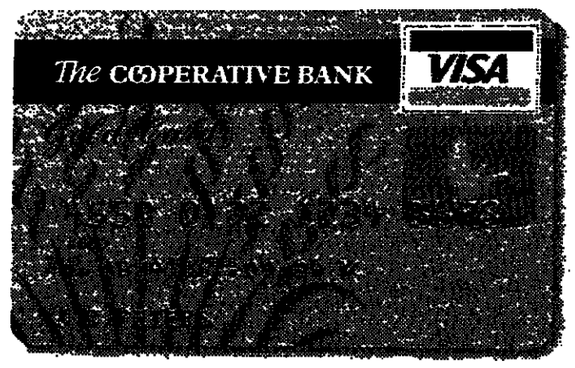
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Sanctuary for whales may allow more kills

Conservationists fear safety plans will backfire, reports Nick Nuttall

PROPOSALS for a global whale sanctuary will come before the International Whaling Commission at its annual meeting in Bournemouth today. But some governments and conservationists fear that it may lead to more whales being killed.

The plan, which is believed to be supported by most nations, aims to stop countries such as Japan and Norway flouting the rules and whaling in international waters. In return for supporting the sanctuary, they will be given the right to catch whales commercially in their own waters up to 200 miles offshore.

Japan and Norway, and perhaps in the future other nations, could legally catch whales migrating through their coastal waters. Chris Stroud of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society in Bath, said yesterday that several species could be overexploited. They included minke whales, Bryde's whales, fin whales and humpbacks.

Vassili Papastavrou of the International Fund for Animal Welfare said: "We are between the devil and the deep blue sea. Most of the world's whales are in coastal waters at one time or another.

"There is a general move away from global international treaties in respect to the sea. The move now is to give national governments or regional groupings responsibilities. But this would be a disaster for whales as they are a highly migratory species."

The proposals for the global sanctuary have been put forward by Ireland and will be debated in private before the commission moves to Monaco in three weeks for its public session. Elliot Morley, a junior Agriculture Minister, said yesterday: "All of Ireland's proposals are perfectly acceptable. The one sticking point is the issue of coastal whaling."

He said that if a global sanctuary were approved, Britain would not rule out backing the resumption of small-scale, commercial coastal whaling. "We will have to see exactly what it means in terms of the number of whales that would be at threat from coastal whaling. There are issues of cruelty too."

Few countries and conservation groups disagree that action is needed. More than ten years ago, the International Whaling Commission voted overwhelmingly for a moratorium on whaling. But the numbers of animals killed has continued to grow.

Japan, which carries out so-called scientific whaling, officially caught 330 minke whales in 1993, which has now grown to about 540. The whales are killed in the Antarctic and Pacific and much of the meat ends up, not in laboratories, but on the tables of Tokyo restaraunts.

Norway, which has exempted itself from the moratorium, killed some 226 minkes in 1993 but the latest catch is just over 500. Scientists and investigators also claim that through DNA testing they have found meat from such species as the blue whale on sale in Japanese markets.

The Japanese have allegedly been wooing the votes of mainly Caribbean islands to back their calls for the resumption of commercial whaling. Japan has set up port and fish-processing plants and provided other economic incentives in several islands, including Dominica and St Lucia.



Gathered waists and slim-fitting trousers at Ghost's return to London





Tanya Sarne's designs harked back to the Eighties and the Twenties, but also looked to the future

Triumphant Ghost returns to haunt London fashion

BY GRACE BRADBURY, STYLE EDITOR

GHOST, one of Britain's most successful fashion labels, made a triumphant return to the London catwalk yesterday after eight seasons in New York.

The "haunted" collection for spring/summer 1998 was modelled by a clutch of top names including the American Amy Wesson and Alec Wek, the extraordinary Somalian-born model who came to Britain as a refugee. Held in a hall on the Mall, the event was as slick as any New York show.

Tanya Sarne, who founded the label in 1984, abandoned London Fashion Week four years ago because the event was too small and was poorly attended by international buyers and press. "When I left there were just six shows. Now there are 53, and there's a real credibility about this country," said Sarne, whose business is based in north London.

Highlights of the show included sheer organza dresses worn over tulle leggings, one shoulder bat-wing dresses reminiscent of the late Seventies and Eighties and poppy-print draped-back mini-dresses on a squaw theme.

Sequined chevron dresses with dropped, gathered waists harked back to the Eighties and before that the Twenties, while slim-fitting stretch trousers with contrasting inserts at the hips were firmly futuristic. The British designer Betty Jackson also showed yesterday, producing layered sheer T-shirts, delicate hooded knit tops and caramel leather shell tops and dresses.

Eastern influence layering also featured in the shows of the young designers Mark Whittaker and Sonja Nuttall, who unveiled her collection in Selfridges car park.

Ghost's hallmark is its fabrics. Woven from viscose yarns derived from specially grown soft woods; they are boiled to the consistency of vintage crepe and dyed in subtle colours. Yesterday's show however displayed snake corset belts, stretch jackets and crepe kung-fu trousers.

Sad shad fails to scale fish ladder

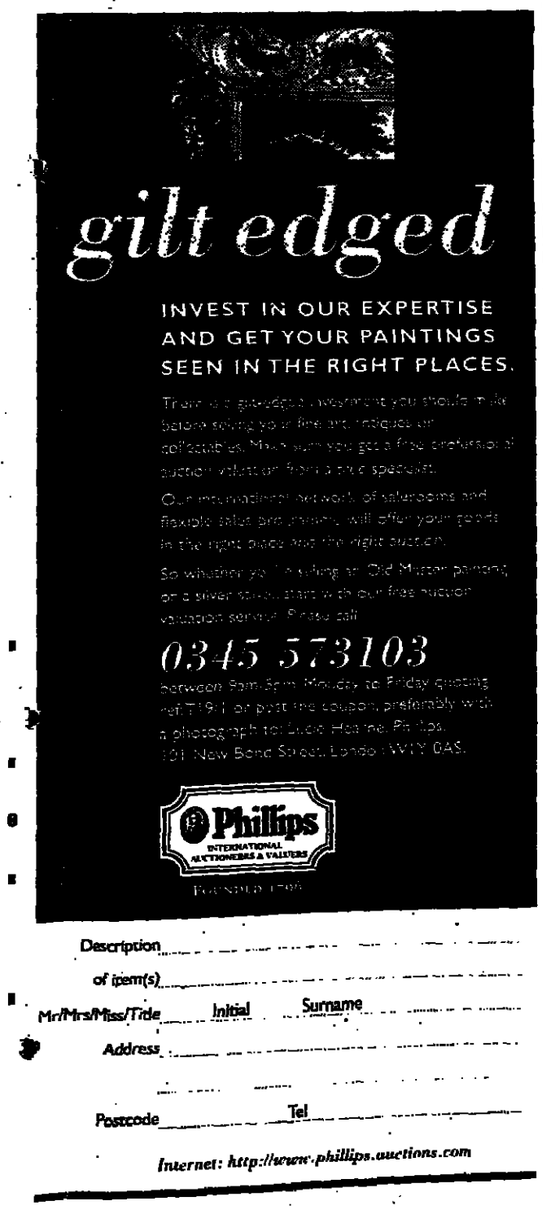
FISH ladders — a series of steps introduced to help salmon negotiate Britain's major rivers — have caused a devastating decline in the shad, a bony relation of the herring.

Shad were once plentiful in the River Severn and would migrate as far upstream as Worcester to spawn before returning to the Atlantic.

Now conservationists fear they have been pushed to the brink of extinction. Although over-fishing and poor water quality have also contributed to the fall in numbers, conservationists believe the introduction of the ladders is principally to blame.

Worcester Wildlife Trust has now started a two-year study of the protected fish and is asking anglers along the Severn, one of the species' last strongholds, to record catches and monitor the shad population. Andy Graham, a Trust spokesman, said that because of turbulence the shad canot get up the ladders, which by-pass the Diglis and Powick weirs, to head upstream to spawn.

Mr Graham, who has set up the Trust's shad protection group, said: "Although salmon can navigate these weirs using fish ladders, it seems shad can't. The installation of suitable passes for shad will be one of the first things the shad protection group will be working for."





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QCs in uproar over Straw's 'unfair' attack on their fees

Frances Gibb on the Bar's response to the Home Secretary's plans to curb their earnings

SENIOR Queen's Counsel reacted with fury yesterday to comments by the Home Secretary about their "stunning" earnings, claiming that Jack Straw's figures were misleading and designed to score political points.

Robert Owen, QC, denounced remarks by the Home Secretary — delivered without warning — that the Bar must put its own house in order or face a cap on high criminal legal aid fees.

Mr Owen said: "It is an easy point to make. But it is not the Bar which is making this market or assessing these fees. It is the Legal Aid Board, a quasi-government organisation which decides what is fair and reasonable remuneration."

Roy Amlot, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said the Bar was prepared to negotiate a solution to rising criminal costs. But the figures cited by the Home Secretary could be "distorting" and "unfair", he said. "They need very careful analysis. We are talking about a tiny handful, one per cent of cases, which the Government said accounts for 50 per cent of the criminal legal aid costs. Then it said on a later occasion that the figure was 30 per cent — and now we have Jack Straw saying 40 per cent. So what figure are we talking about?"

Mr Amlot said that long-running criminal cases — usually fraud — involved enormous time, strain and effort. Pay was related to the trial's complexity. "We are very anxious to negotiate provided that the rates paid are fair and reasonable — otherwise people will not be prepared to do that work," he said.

Fixed hourly rates had already been brought in by the Serious Fraud Office for prosecution work. But the levels were much lower than defence work. Any such disparity was "dangerous" otherwise experienced QCs would not prosecute. Another leading criminal QC, Anne Rafferty, immediate past chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said: "If Jack Straw or any Minister would like to come and spend a month working with me and see if I am worth, what I earn, I would be delighted."

When figures of £300,000 a year were cited for top QCs doing criminal legal aid, it was never clear that this was not a year's earings. "These sums are the amount a barrister receives in a year, which is a meaningless figure. He or she may have waited to be paid for two to three years; and the sum could well derive from work stretching over three years," she said.

Nigel Pascoe, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said the top earnings at the criminal bar were not the £500,000 to £1 million regularly reaped at the commercial bar.

"In a big commercial fraud, a QC may be paid £300,000 to £500,000, over two years. But top criminal QCs will normally earn about £100,000 to £200,000 a year."

Mr Straw said later that the figures of some of the high-earnings QCs were "stunning", adding that the costs of criminal legal aid could not go on. It was "astonishing", he added, that the costs of defending suspects in the Crown court now equalled the total costs of the prosecution in every court.

Why crime doesn't pay for QCs

BARRISTERS at the criminal bar are traditionally the "poor relations" who could justifiably look with envy at their commercial colleagues. Top QCs at the commercial bar regularly earn £500,000 a year and a handful gross £1 million.

Young criminal barristers are particularly hard-pressed. Cherie Booth, QC, conference chairman, said that she knew many who could "barely make ends meet".

A barrister of about seven years' standing doing criminal legal aid work can earn about £40,000-£60,000, while an averagely successful QC could be expected to gross £150,000-£200,000.

Nearly all criminal legal aid fees are now tightly controlled and determined by a sliding scale of so-called "graduated fees", which the Bar itself put forward and negotiated with the Government.

In the handful of long-running, complex cases, notably big fraud trials such as that of the Maxwell brothers or Ernest Saunders, earnings of the top QCs might reach £300,000 a year.

KIPPA MATTHEWS



Jack Straw addressing the Bar Conference at the weekend

Plan for lay prosecutors attacked

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for non-lawyers to prosecute routine "guilty plea" cases in the magistrates' courts were heavily criticised at the Bar conference on Saturday. Nigel Pascoe, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "If I go into hospital for standard surgery, on the whole I don't want it done by the administrator."

Kevin Goodwin, of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, said the plans would damage confidence in the Crown Prosecution Service. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, was "extremely uneasy" about the plans, seen by the Government as one way of reducing delays in the criminal justice system: "It is a cost-cutting measure which does not address the fundamental problems in the service."

But Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that it was a ridiculous waste of time for experienced, qualified lawyers to have to deal with lists of routine guilty pleas, such as those for parking offences. "In the old days, those kind of cases — which involve reading out some brief facts — were done by police inspectors."

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CONFERENCE BRIEFS

Judges' Freemasonry secrets likely to end

Judges, magistrates and others in the criminal justice system may be required to disclose membership of the Freemasons, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, indicated on Saturday. He told the Bar conference that the Government was under a duty to respond to the recent report of the Home Affairs Committee which recommended that there be a disclosure requirement.

It was Labour's view that membership of Freemasonry should be disclosed, he said. The MPs' report was under "active consideration" and a response would be made in a couple of months. "We are considering the best way it can be implemented."

He was responding to a question from Dorothy Hayes, chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers, which favours compulsory disclosure of membership although it would only affect those who take up a judicial post be required to resign as a Freemason.

Call for study of jury process

Research on how juries reach their verdicts was called for by Judge Neil Denison, the Common Serjeant in the City of London. Without it, there was no way of telling how trials and verdicts have been affected by letting judges and juries draw inferences from a suspect's silence under police questioning, he said. The judge added that too much was now expected of juries. They might need direction in future on such issues as identification, joint enterprise, self-defence, provocation, diminished responsibility, lies and good character.



Trainees need loan scheme'

The Bar and the Law Society are adding to calls for the legal profession to be kept open for the less well-off. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, and the president of the Law Society, Phillip Sycamore, are writing to the Government asking for the student loan scheme to be extended to the law's compulsory one-year vocational training course. Last week Cherie Booth, QC, the Bar Conference chairwoman, said it was a "tragedy" that because local authority funding had dried up, the less well-off might be unable to enter the profession.

Junior doctors' reports attacked

Poorly-written medical reports by unsupervised junior doctors are being used in court and influencing sentencing, the conference was told. Dr Tony Maden, senior lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, said that even where a defendant was facing serious charges psychiatric reports were prepared by inexperienced juniors.

A survey of reports done on prisoners awaiting trial found that some were not prepared by psychiatrists at all, he said. "Many included indefensible comments — the word 'evil' appeared in more than one. It was clear that some had had a very damaging influence on sentencing that could not be justified on medical grounds."

He said that, as in the health service, letters and reports by junior doctors should include the name of a supervising consultant.

Men gain right to parental leave

Men will have a right to paternity leave when the Government introduces a European draft directive on parental leave, Laura Cox, QC, told the conference that the Government's pledge to end Britain's opt-out from the European Union social policy meant that it would have to bring in the directive by next June. But Mrs Cox said, the timing of the introduction was unclear and the Government clearly had no plans for going beyond its minimum obligations and providing paid leave. She said employees would have the right to take three months' unpaid parental leave after the birth or adoption of a child.

2,500 'bugged' by police

Some 2,500 "buggings" or surveillance activities by police were approved last year by chief police officers in the course of criminal investigations. Commander Roy Penrose, national coordinator of the regional crime squads in England and Wales, said yesterday. However, he said intrusion into the actual homes of suspects accounted for only a small percentage of the total. "The vast majority relate to the use of surveillance cameras, vehicle monitoring devices and the like." Roger Ede, criminal law secretary at the Law Society, said that lawyers were still extremely concerned that the code of practice now being draw up under the Police Act to govern police surveillance did not include adequate safeguards, and the Home Office was being pressed to redraft it. He said the code would still allow police to "bug" lawyers' offices without grounds for believing that the solicitor and client were intent on furthering a crime.

هكذا من الاصل

Survivors still bitter that an attack fiercer than that on Coventry was not acknowledged

Ministers kept full horror of wartime blitz on Scots town secret

A new book sets the story straight on Clydebank's silenced suffering says **Magnus Linklater**

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S wartime Government ordered the suppression of casualty figures and the cover-up of details about a German air raid that devastated a town in Scotland.

Revelations about the decision to withhold information about the night-time blitzes in March 1941 that destroyed Clydebank, six miles from Glasgow, have emerged in a new book.

The inhabitants of Clydebank have long believed that the facts about two nights of sustained devastation by 236 bombers had not been admitted. Last week some of the survivors turned out at the launch in Glasgow of *The Holy City* by Meg Henderson, a partly fictionalised account. They told stories of the full horror of the bombing and the way it was covered up.

The bombing of Clydebank took place as London was beginning to recover from the previous winter's Blitz, and a day after Liverpool had been attacked. On a clear night with a "bomber's moon" illuminating the Clyde, its shipyards and factories, 272 tons of explosives and 1,650 incendiary containers were dropped. On the following night, guided by the raging fires, the German bombers returned to deliver another 231 tons.

Clydebank suffered the same tonnage of bombs over the nights of March 13 and 14 as Coventry had experienced the previous November, but with three times the amount of incendiaries. For a small town, the effect was devastating. Out of 12,000 homes, 4,300 were destroyed.

What has always angered the "Bankies", as the town's people are known, has been the way that information was withheld, and, to an extent, still is: the raid is described in official war records as simply being on "Glasgow-Clydeside".

In addition, however, the Bankies make serious claims about the way the town was left unprepared:

☐ Although Clydebank, with a shipyard and munitions factory, was clearly a prime target, the town was reassured that an attack was unlikely.

☐ Nothing had been done to evacuate its inhabitants or to alert the thousands who poured in every day to work at the yards.

☐ Counter-measures, which could jam German radio signals, were not available in Clydebank.

☐ Warning that German bombers were on their way was withheld on the first night so as not to cause people to flee on to the streets.

☐ Much of the firefighting equipment could not be used because couplings did not fit and hydrants were not highlighted in yellow paint.

☐ Although industrial sites were hit, most of the damage was to houses. German reports indicate that it was a "terror raid" as much as a strategic one.

☐ The official casualty figure puts the number of dead in Clydebank as 528, with 617 seriously injured. But more than 1,200 were killed in the area as a whole, and most of these were almost certainly in Clydebank.

Ms Henderson, a journalist, is convinced that the nature of the damage inflicted on Clydebank was played down so as not to cause national panic, but also because it would reveal the inadequacy of the Government's measures. "It was such an obvious target that it should have been prepared for a raid," she says. "Yet the official advice was that it wouldn't happen. It is ironical that when it did, the people were the target and not the industries."

Certainly, most of the German bombs seemed to be directed at streets rather than the John Brown shipyards or the Singer sewing-machine factory which had been turned over to munitions work. The only previous account of the raid, written in 1974, described whole terraces with their frontages removed, 80 deaths in ten houses in one street alone, 15 members of one family killed in a single house and the desperate inadequacy of the firefighting arrangements.

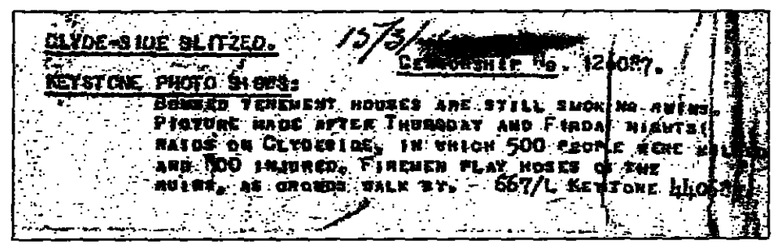
Pressure from local MPs forced Herbert Morrison, the Home Secretary, to concede that more than 1,000 people had been killed, but he refused "for security reasons" to distinguish between Glasgow and Clydebank. And that largely remains the case.

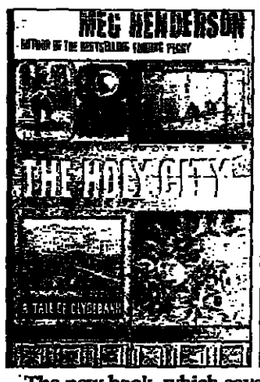
"When wartime bomb raids are talked of, London, Coventry, even Dresden are mentioned, but Clydebank has always been ignored," Ms Henderson said. "The Bankies feel a simmering anger over that. I think that anger is justified."



HULTON GETTY

The smoking ruins of Clydebank's streets, devastated over two nights in which 272 tons of explosives and 1,650 incendiary containers fell, and below, the censor's original caption to the photograph. It says that 500 were killed when the true figure is likely to have been twice that







The new book, which says Churchill's Government covered up the true extent of casualties in the raids

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They also intend to use their cheque book facility to help Sarah when she goes up to University in two years time.

Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and is remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Preferential Rate Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies.

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Nation bides its time for Kohl to reserve seat at UN high table

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

I am trying to avoid Bonn dinner parties at the moment, but when a determined hostess eventually bullies me to the table the conversation turns on the contrast between Britain (surging, dynamic, breathlessly fascinating) and Germany (limp, Jurassic, out of breath), with the Germans as usual running down their country with ruthless Spenglerian pessimism.

It takes only a small imaginative leap, however, to put Germany's apparent decline into perspective. Where will the country stand in 2002? Almost certainly, at the head of a Europe with a common currency, and not just a regional power with global reach. German influence will have expanded eastwards (with Central Europeans on the brink of European and Nato membership) and south-eastwards. Its power to the west and north will have been consolidated; France's balancing role will have further shrivelled, and Britain's golden era will, perhaps, lose its glitter.

If the country can overhaul its economy (I am sure it will, albeit with the stop-start of a pack mule), then its present, perceived weaknesses — high labour, welfare costs and over-regulation — will not seem so menacing. If Swiss doctors can inject Helmut Kohl with rejuvenating sheep cells, then the Chancellor may even be at the helm in 2002. He is not a necessary component in this thesis. Europe is preparing to reverse its relative decline compared to the United States and the Asian tiger economies, and if current plans are realised, Eruope should be dancing to a German tune. Shrewder German officials sense this and are looking beyond next year's leadership elections.

There is no more reliable index of the resurgence of Germany than the contours of the UN debate. Every year, at this season, Germany ponders whether it should, and whether it will ever, be a permanent member of the Security Council. This promotion would mark Germany's transition from Second World War loser to Cold War victor.

When I first heard this plan mooted, soon after Germany's unification, its neighbours shrugged nervously and changed the subject. By 1995 Bonn's ambition was treated seriously but as a question for the distant future. Now it is merely a matter of negotiation. France approves German membership, so does Britain, China seems nowadays more loyal to Herr Kohl than some of his own coalition partners (it has even come out in favour of the euro) and backs Bonn. Russia is not keen to let Germany at the top table but is no longer openly against. Washington likes the idea of German and Japanese participation as well as other Third World representatives, but is not clear on veto rights. Bonn says it will not accept second-class non-voting status. By spring, a vote could be taken on the candidates — giving a boost to the Kohl poll campaign.

Germany's advance in the UN hierarchy demonstrates its changing status. It not only pays its way (contributing about 9 per cent of the UN budget) but also plays a full part in armed peacekeeping missions (unthinkable a few years ago) and shelters a huge number of refugees. Now it wants the attendant status.

Germany wants its real geopolitical power, and its various responsibilities, to be acknowledged by an upward adjustment in the global pecking order.

There are those outside Germany unsettled by the speed of this transformation, but its claims are well argued. The problem is whether the German people really want to sit at high table. The overwhelming majority of German newspaper readers ignore foreign news. Viewing figures for television talk shows on foreign affairs are poor. There is a pre-occupation with self that may simply reflect the mood before a general election, or something deeper. Even Europe is assessed on pragmatic criteria: why are we paying so much? What is it giving us?

There is a dissonance between the aims Germany is setting itself, and how Germans really see themselves. The gulf has to be narrowed before the German capital moves to Berlin, otherwise the new Berlin republic will be a restless rather than a stabilising force in the world.

Karadzic 'has moved £17m to foreign banks'

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

RADOVAN KARADZIC, the indicted Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect, has transferred 49 million German marks (£17 million) out of Republika Srpska into foreign bank accounts, President Plavsic said in a national television interview at the weekend.

The broadcast, from Mrs Plavsic's stronghold of Banja Luka, was a breakthrough in her battle to convince all Bosnian Serbs that Dr Karadzic has had his day.

A new agreement forced on Bosnian Serb hardliners by Washington and the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia has given Banja Luka equal airtime on state television to Dr Karadzic's power base of Pale. While the deal holds, Mrs Plavsic is determined to get across her anti-corruption message and woo voters before elections scheduled for November.

The President, who has made no secret of her desire to see Dr Karadzic removed from Bosnian Serb territory, said she knew "for sure that he took 32 million German marks from a Banja Luka bank on March 11. I also know that about 17 million German marks were transferred from a Banja Luka bank to some Italian bank in his name in April."

The alleged corruption and racketeering engendered by the Karadzic regime during the four-year Bosnian war has left economic power in Republika Srpska in the hands of the Pale political clique and an elite group of gangsters-turned-businessmen.

Mrs Plavsic, using the loyalist police force installed for her by the Nato Stabilisation Force (Sfor), is desperately trying to track down where the missing millions from the country are being held, and by whom. The President earns 1,200 dinars (DM315 or £111) a month. Members of her small Cabinet receive a quarter less, and for most Bosnian Serbs life is a matter of scraping by on around DM100.

Unless Dr Karadzic is handed over to stand trial for war crimes in The Hague, Republika Srpska will remain a pariah state, a recipient of less than 5 per cent of the international community's funding for Bosnia. In these circumstances it is galling to see local businessmen living in ostentatious luxury.

Milan Dupor, Mrs Plavsic's legal adviser, describes the shadowy figures lurking behind the dark-tinted windows of their new Mercedes and BMWs as "civilian bandits". The President wants to bring to book not just Dr Karadzic but his whole entourage who have profiteered from the war.

Over the past two weeks, British Sfor troops have helped Mrs Plavsic's police force take control of stations in towns in western Republika Srpska that were previously loyal to the Karadzic regime. One strategic success was the taking of Prnjavor, a town notorious for gangster activity, 40 miles east of Banja Luka.

Her next targets are police stations in the former railway junction of Doboj; in Brcko, straddling the corridor between the Plavsic and Karadzic-controlled territories; and in Bijelina, the point of entry for much of Yugoslav trade with Republika Srpska.

In her television interview, Mrs Plavsic said she had no idea whether Dr Karadzic was still in Pale. Rumours circulating recently among United Nations personnel suggested that he had been spirited out to the Czech Republic.

SVEN KAESTNER/AP



Let the good times roll: inline skaters pass the Brandenburg Gate in the annual Berlin marathon yesterday, the first year they have taken part

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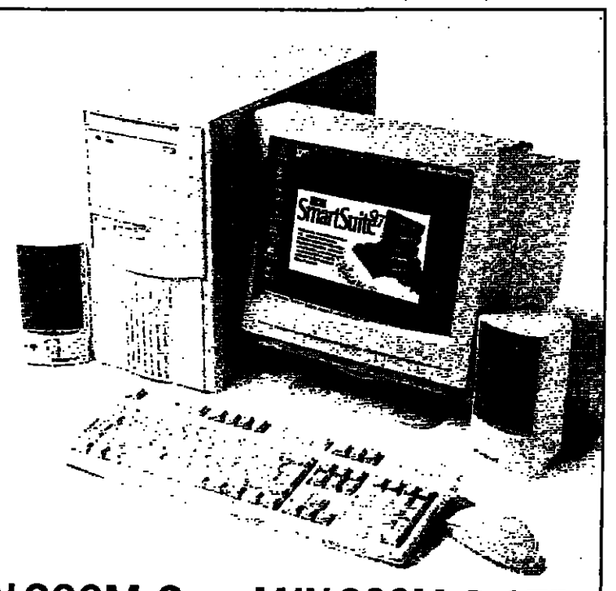
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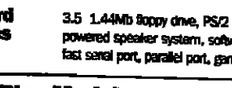
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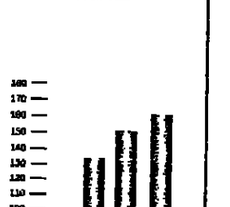
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Yeltsin pledges to crush mafia gangs

FROM RICHARD BEESTON AND ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S criminals and profiteers were given notice at the weekend that their days of plundering the nation's wealth are over. The message went out from President Yeltsin, who vowed to stamp out organised crime and corruption and impose stricter state control over the economy.

His task is to ensure that the message is taken seriously and for his Government to succeed in installing order and transparency into the economy without stifling incentive, to justify his assertion that Russia has reached a turning point and is poised for economic growth. In his weekly radio broadcast, the Russian leader said that he could not take any comfort from recent figures showing a drop in crime because more than 2,500 government officials were under investigation for corruption.

"What worries me most of all is the growth of organised crime and corruption. We have encountered an extremely dangerous phenomenon. In the pursuit of easy money, criminal elements are trying to infiltrate government," he said. "The main thing is to be closer to the feeding trough, closer to the federal or city treasury. They know that it is there that they will find a golden vein."

Mr Yeltsin said those either charged or convicted included the heads of the administrations in the Vologda and Tularegions, eight generals and admirals and officers in customs, the tax inspectorate and procurator's office.

In two extraordinary cases, first exposed by the press, criminals gangs in Zlatoust in the Urals and Leninsk-Kuznetskly in western Siberia apparently took control of the local government and ran a reign of terror over the lives of tens of thousands of people.

The transformation of the moribund Soviet state economy into the private sector was a lengthy and painful process, which was carried out at enormous cost to the population as a whole, while creating conditions for a small group of bankers and entrepreneurs to grab all they could for themselves.

The results of that process are plain to see. Moscow's streets are jammed with the 7-series BMWs and Mercedes 600s of the new rich, who are buying up million-pound apartments in London, New York and across Western Europe. At the same time, teachers and other state-sector employees have not received their pay for months, while in some provincial regions people are reduced to eating animal feed to survive.

The positive side is that Russia does now have a market. The basic infrastructure for economic development is in place. But if that is to happen, state regulation is essential to curb the abuses carried out by big businesses in the free market. Mr Yeltsin gave a warning that backstage wheeler-dealing with federal funds and other corrupt practices would no longer be tolerated.

The reaction from the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, was polite but unenthusiastic. The problem is not so much that Mr Yeltsin's listeners disagreed with what he was saying, as that they had heard such promises before. The President did not provide details on how the state was going to intervene, but merely emphasised the need for the market and state regulation to work hand in glove.

If, over the next few weeks, there is tangible evidence that the Government is withstanding pressure from big business, it will go some way to help the administration win parliamentary support for next year's budget and a new simplified tax code. Grigori Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko parliamentary faction, said the time had come for a new generation of leaders to make good the endless series of empty promises and well-meaning declarations of the current administration and announced that he would be running for President in 2000.

Leading article, page 25

REUTERS TV



The *Atlantis* shuttle approaches Mir to dock, and astronaut Wendy Lawrence is greeted by Anatoli Solovyev, the space station commander

Relief as shuttle docks with troubled Mir

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

"WE GOT it, Houston," announced the relieved commander of the *Atlantis* space shuttle after docking with Mir, the crippled Russian space station, to allow a controversial change of its American crew and to hand over a new computer.

Astronaut David Wolf, 41, will now take up his berth in the trouble-plagued station for a four-month tour, replacing the British-born Michael Foale, who will return on *Atlantis* on Friday. Mr Wolf, who plans to work on about 40 experiments including human cancer growth, hopes for a less dramatic stint than Mr Foale, who lost most of his laboratory and his possessions when Mir collided in June with its *Progress* resupply ship, damaging the station's power systems.

The Mir crew joked with Mission Control, outside Moscow, that Mr Foale, whose good humour appeared never to fail during the mounting problems, was loath to go. "Mike is wandering around like a shadow and doesn't want to leave," one official said. The docking on Saturday, 245 miles above Central Asia, proved faultless despite growing technical worries. For two days, as the two spacecraft chased each other at 17,000mph around the Earth, Nasa controllers feared that Mir's malfunctioning computer would fail to hold the station in a stable position.

But James Wetherbee, the *Atlantis* Commander, was able to manoeuvre his 100-tonne craft up to one of Mir's docks and the seven shuttle crew greeted the three on board.

Shortly after the docking, the Mir cosmonauts and the *Atlantis* crew started hauling a new computer for the station, which will help to power it by keeping its solar panels oriented towards the Sun. Other cargo included repair gear, scientific experiments, drinking water, electrical batteries, tanks of air, and a cap designed to plug a leak in Mir's Spektr science module, which punctured in the June mishap.

On Earth, the row over the hazards of American participation in the Russian venture threatens to flare up with any new glitch. Daniel Goldin, director of Nasa, said that the decision to go ahead with Mr Wolf's mission has given him sleepless nights. Further problems could also jeopardise American-Russian co-operation over the Alpha international space station, which is due to start next year.

☐ **Korolyov, Russia:** An overworked crew and insufficient training were key factors leading to the Mir collision with *Progress*, a Russian inquiry has found. The report does not blame Vasili Tsibliyev, the Mir commander. It says a process of mistakes led to the accident. *(Reuters)*

BA 747 in near collision over New York

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH Airways Boeing 747 missed colliding with another jet by the aviation equivalent of a hair's breadth at John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, air safety authorities said.

The incident happened at 4.18pm on September 19 when a BA 747 from London aborted its landing and apparently flew into the path of a Tower Air 747 that was taking off. A crash was averted only by a last-minute swerve by the Tower Air pilot.

Barrett Byrnes, who was in the control tower at the time, said: "The Tower Air pilot cranked that airplane over like it was an F16 fighter jet. He just turned it on its side."

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar records confirm that the planes came withing 1,500ft of colliding over the southeast corner of the airport. Under the rules, the aircraft should have been at least four miles apart.

Yesterday, the controllers' union blamed the FAA for the incident, claiming that its efforts to speed operations at the airport were putting lives at risk. Arlene Salac, for the FAA, said that it had classified the incident as a combination of errors by the BA pilot and the control tower.

Sackings in Athens safety row

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

THE director and three senior officials of Athens international airport have been dismissed after it was found to lack basic emergency services.

Tasos Mandelis, the Transport Minister, ordered the dismissals after a small Olympic Airways airliner with undercarriage failure was forced to land at a military airport north of the city because the equipment for deploying foam on the runway at Athens was out of order. None of the 19 passengers and crew was injured, although the plane was badly damaged.

Mr Mandelis rejected the initial report by the Athens Airport Administration which failed to apportion blame. It has been reported that the foam machines at Athens had been out of order for months, with no immediate plans for repair or replacement.

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Barcleys	15.9%	£166.60	£9,996.00	£546.00
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Doctor tells of plans to have HIV injection



Tom Rhodes in Washington reports on the clinician ready to be a human guinea pig in his quest for an Aids vaccine

CHARLES FARTHING has spent more than a decade in Britain and America battling Aids in his patients' bodies. Now he is proposing to inject HIV into his own.

The man who established the largest Aids clinic in England at St Stephen's Hospital, London, and designed the Government's public education campaign to tackle the disease, is leading an effort to inoculate a dozen healthy people, including himself, with a weakened but live strain of the virus that has long been considered a death sentence.

Dr Farthing, now medical director of the Aids Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles, hopes the unprecedented trials will create a vaccine that can block HIV and eventually prevent the worldwide infection of 8,000 new victims every day.

There are, of course, no guarantees that these human guinea pigs will not develop the disease and die. Since news of his proposal was announced by a subcommittee he heads for the International Association of Physicians in Aids Care in Chicago, Dr Farthing, 44, has been variously described as certifiably insane and lacking in scientific judgment.

But he remains undaunted. "Someone has to go first," he said. "Medicine has changed. Years ago, people took risks. Now it is as if research cannot expose anyone to risk. That is why this research is going so slowly. People have to accept some risk."

Last week, Dr Farthing and his enthusiastic cohorts visited Washington to seek the assistance of the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in addressing scientific concerns before a live attenuated vaccine trial can take place. In November, he will present his plan to an international health conference in the American capital before moving towards the live tests.

Assuming that bioethicists are able to define the ethical dilemma of injecting people with one of the most dreaded viruses in history, and there is a consensus within the American health community, Dr Farthing hopes tests can start within two years and certainly before the millennium.

He said: "The big question is not, 'Will it work?', but 'Is it safe?' It is already shown to be effective in monkeys, and they are not all that different from us." Indeed, Dr Farthing believes that animal and other studies, including the accidental injection of several patients with weakened HIV in Australia 14 years ago, have shown the risk to be minimal.

His co-volunteers are so convinced of their survival that they talk of this apparent Russian roulette as far less dangerous than skydiving or bungee jumping. A recent dip in the number of Aids cases, they say, has resulted in a sudden rise in unsafe sex among homosexuals.



Farthing: says people have to take risks

The proposed vaccine, developed by Dr Donald Desrosiers at Harvard, would be an even weaker counterpart to that he tested on monkeys. But critics of the tests fear the mutated virus may be able to regain its full strength in the human body and cause Aids. They also argue that the trials are simply too dangerous because, as a retrovirus, HIV can cause cancer.

"I commend these people for being altruistic in volunteering for something like this," said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "But as a scientist, I think it is premature. What would this tell us about safety? Nothing."

Dr Farthing, who spent seven years at St Stephen's, chaired the all-party parliamentary committee on Aids and is a member of the Royal College of Physicians, clearly believes the time has come to make a stand against the accepted values of research.

And what of families and friends? He has told the man he lives with in Los Angeles, who is "pretty concerned". But he has still not contacted his mother or brother in New Zealand to tell them he has decided to volunteer.

"I have not discussed it with them," said Dr Farthing with a smile. "But I am sure they would be supportive."

JIM HOLLANDER / REUTERS



An Orthodox Jewish passenger naps as he waits for a flight at Ben Gurion airport, badly hit by the work stoppage

Strike by 500,000 cripples Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MUCH of Israel ground to a halt yesterday as more than 500,000 workers joined a limited general strike called by the main Histradut labour federation in a challenge to the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu.

The strike, one of the biggest in the country for many years, was initially limited to eight hours after appeals to a labour court by employers claiming that it was political. A decision on future stoppages will be taken after a further court hearing today.

Sunday is a normal work day in Israel and the strike, which began at 6am, shut airports, seaports, banks, the stock exchange in Tel Aviv, schools, post offices, many defence industries and government offices. The timing was bitterly attacked by government ministers, coming just before the three-week holiday period which begins with the Jewish New Year's Eve on Wednesday. There was chaos at Tel Aviv's main Ben Gurion airport as El Al brought forward 25 flights to try to clear holidaymakers before the stoppage began. One exception was made to enable President Weizman to take off for talks in Egypt with President Mubarak.

The two main causes of the strike were sweeping plans by the Government to privatise sectors of Israel's heavily state-run economy and its refusal to pay a generous pension rise, which was agreed in the dying days of its Labour predecessor, defeated in the May 1996 election. Yaakov Neeman, the Finance Minister, called the deal a political document. He said: "The Histradut is holding the Government by its throat for personal political purposes."

☐ **Talks resume:** Israel yesterday agreed to resume talks with the Palestinians and release £10 million in frozen funds to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority, a day before a key meeting in New York between Israel, America and the authority. *(AFP)*

Iranian ballistic missile 'almost ready'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

IRAN, with huge aid from Russia, is on the verge of completing its development of ballistic missiles that can strike any part of the Israel, according to Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Mr Mordechai, a former senior army officer, said that America and Israel had received intelligence reports that had led both countries to conclude that Tehran has progressed faster than previously thought on both its medium-range ballistic and nuclear weapons programmes.

"Iran is on the verge of achieving capability of producing long-range missiles that have strategic dangers to Israel as well as to American interests in the region," the minister said. His disclosures stirred renewed diplomatic speculation that in the coming months, unless there were a drastic change of heart in Tehran and Moscow, Israel mighy choose to launch a preemptive strike similar to that launched against the Iraqi Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981.

According to Israeli publications, Iranian missile plants exist in the cities of Shiraz, Farhin and Semnan. Israel's capability of mounting a successful strike has been boosted by the arrival this year of the first of 25 American-made McDonnell Douglas F15Is. These state-of-the-art long-range strike aircraft are part of a $2 billion (£1.25 billion) package designed to extend the reach of Israel's aerial strike capability to Iran.

Mr Mordechai revealed that, at Iran's current pace of development, Tehran would be able to manufacture missiles that could hit Israel, the Gulf states, Asia and parts of Europe by 1999.

WORLD SUMMARY

Italians agree cuts in budget

Rome: The Italian Cabinet yesterday approved its 1998 budget, which should ensure membership of the single European currency, but create havoc within the coalition.

The budget aims to cut £9 billion off next year's public sector deficit and includes cuts to welfare spending. But the Communist Refoundation has threatened to withdraw its support if the budget includes cuts to pensions. *(Reuters)*

Leading article, page 25

Drugs rebuff

Geneva: Swiss voters rejected a bid to introduce a hardline anti-drugs policy, paving the way for officially sanctioned heroin distribution to some addicts under medical supervision (Peter Capella writes).

Bomb trial opens

Washington: The second Oklahoma City bombing trial opens today. Lawyers say Terry Nichols will be much harder to convict than Timothy McVeigh, who faces the death penalty.

Starvation looms

Twenty two million North Koreans are in immediate danger of starvation after tidal waves washed away millions of tons of crops, the World Food Programme said (Victoria Fletcher writes).

Riots in Kenya

Nairobi: Hundreds rioted in Garissa, the northeastern Kenyan provincial capital, for a second day, burning houses in protest against the killing of 12 people by bandits, Kenya Television Newtwork said. *(AFP)*

Donor dies twice

New York: A "dead" man found to be alive by transplant surgeons was pronounced dead again yesterday after efforts to save him failed. Harry Kyzer had been shot in Beaconsdale, Virginia.

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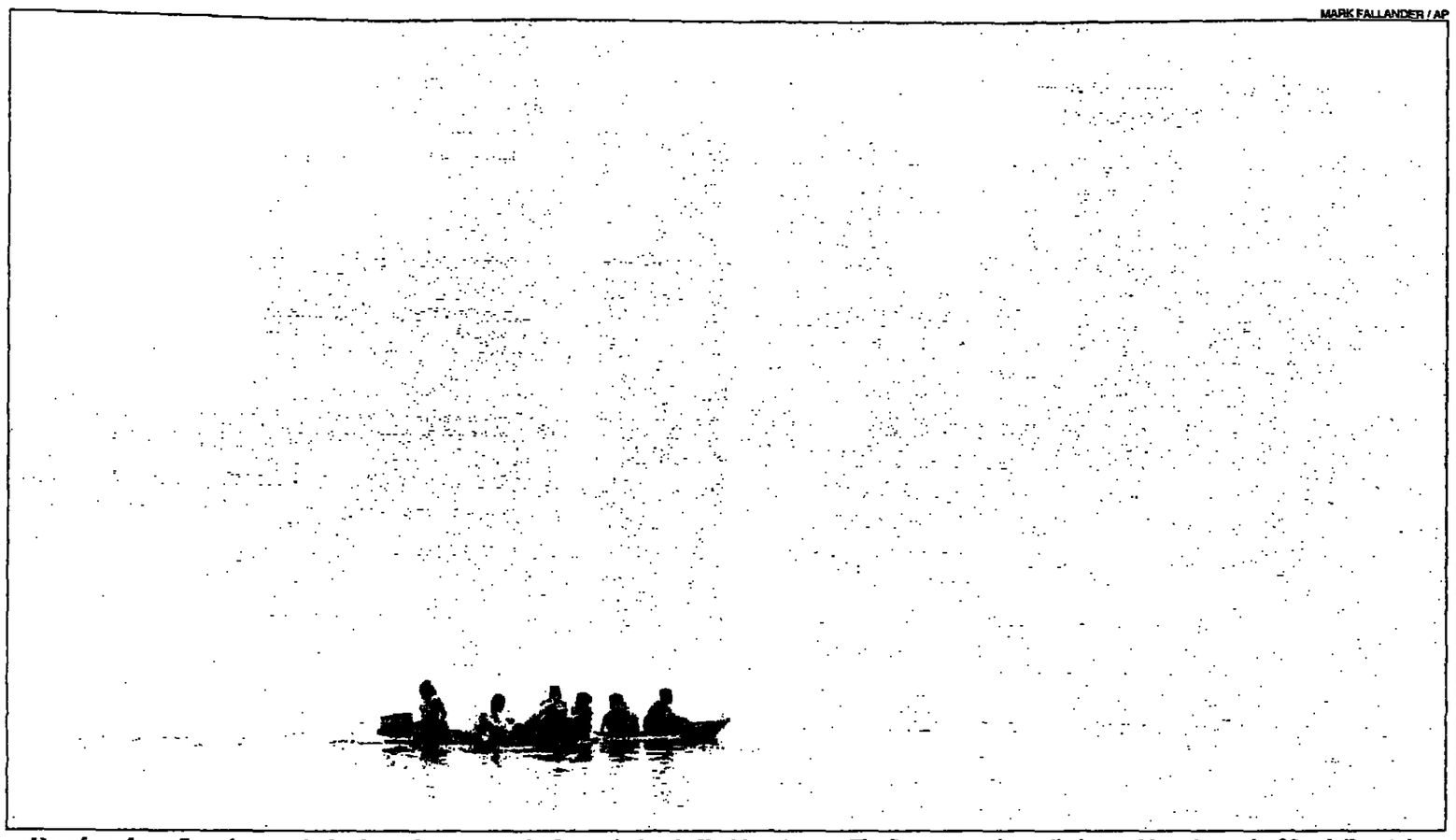
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Mass burial for crash dead

MARK FALLANDER / AP



Haze from forest fires obscures the bank as a boat crosses the Sarawak river in Kuching, Borneo. The fires are causing pollution problems in much of South-East Asia

Relatives struggling to identify bodies before President's time limit expires

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

HUNDREDS of relatives of passengers killed last week in the air crash in the Indonesian island of Sumatra tried desperately to identify remains yesterday before a deadline set for a mass burial.

As the area continued to struggle under a dense blanket of haze which has plagued the region for weeks, President Suharto ordered that all bodies still unidentified by this morning should be buried in a mass ceremony in unmarked individual graves in the same cemetery in North Sumatra where the 57 victims of a 1979 air accident are buried.

More than 300 people travelled to the North Sumatran capital of Medan yesterday to try to identify friends and relatives. By the afternoon, the remains of more than 100 victims were still laid out in an open-air mortuary at the city's Adam Malik Hospital. However, the bodies of most of the 234 people who died on Friday when a Garuda Airbus A300B4 crashed in the jungle near haze-shrouded Medan airport were mangled from the crash and explosion. Relatives, many holding handkerchiefs to their faces, walked round the mortuary.

> *Heavy rains* have held up the search for the flight recorders

Heavy rains yesterday forced a delay in the search for the flight-data and cockpit voice recorders that could help to explain why the 15-year-old twin-engine Airbus crashed into a forest ravine on approach to the airport.

The British Embassy in Jakarta confirmed last night that two Britons were among those who died. It named one of them as Peter Wilson, an expatriate working in Indonesia. He had not been travelling with the other Briton.

The Queen sent a message of condolence to President Suharto. Tony Blair also sent a message of condolence on behalf of the British people to Mr Suharto, expressing his sorrow over the incident. Two members of the Air Accident Investigation Branch from the Deputy Prime Minister's Transport Department are among the ten officials sent by Airbus to help with the crash investigation.

It is not known what caused the crash, but many people think the thick smog enveloping South-East Asia was a contributing factor. The smog is caused by fires raging through 1.5 million acres of Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Indonesian half of Borneo.

Two more smog-related deaths were reported in Sumatra on Saturday, bringing the total to four. It is also believed the smog was responsible for a collision on Saturday in the Strait of Malacca, between Sumatra and Malaysia, involving an Indian cargo vessel and an oil tanker.

Twenty-eight people were still missing, presumed dead,

> *An expatriate* Briton was named as one of those killed

last night. The Indian ship sank within minutes of being hit by the St Vincent-registered supertanker. The smog remained thick across much of Sumatra, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand yesterday. Nine of 11 key regional airports were closed for at least part of the day and Singapore recorded its highest pollution level since the crisis began a couple of months ago. Many people have left the island republic for clearer skies overseas.

A French environmentalist based in Jakarta said that any relief from the smog would be temporary and that the fires might well continue burning for months, if not years, because the peat under the blazing fires was almost impossible to extinguish.

☐ **Tigers sighted:** Fires on the slopes of Mount Merbabu in central Java have forced into the open four rare Javanese tigers after their high-altitude habitat was affected, the Antara news agency reported yesterday. The report said that the tigers and some monkeys were seen by a forestry patrol recently on the mountains near Selo. *(Reuters)*

Twelve are killed in island earthquake

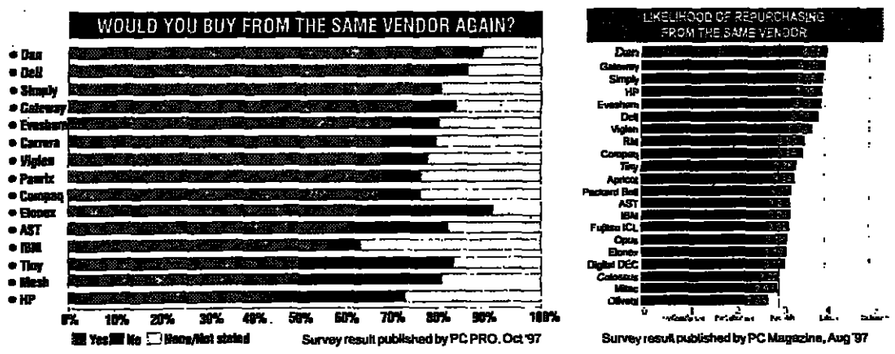
Jakarta: At least 12 people were killed by collapsing buildings when an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi yesterday, police said.

Its epicentre was thought to be near the town of Pinrang, about 110 miles north of the South Sulawesi provincial capital of Ujung Pandang. "Seven people were killed in Parepare and five in Pinrang, with 22 injured," said Colonel Toto Suwali, the Parepare regional police chief.

"There are a number of serious injuries, so there is a possibility that the death toll could rise." Colonel Suwali said 22 buildings and six vehicles were destroyed in the town by the earthquake, adding that a number of minor aftershocks had been felt in Parepare. *(Reuters)*



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1960s work blamed for Assisi damage

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS RESTORERS began the near-impossible task of piecing together fragments of ruined frescoes at Assisi after last Friday's double earthquake, art experts said that the ceiling of the great 13th-century basilica had collapsed because of structural repairs 30 years ago in which reinforced concrete was used instead of the original wood.

There were also accusations that Italian seismologists knew that a second earthquake was imminent after the first jolt but failed to give an adequate warning.

The second, mid-morning earthquake, which measured 5.7 on the Richter scale, caused most damage to the masterpieces by Giotto, Cimabue, Cavallini and other painters who, in a condensed burst of creativity over a period of 50 years at the end of the 13th century, laid the foundations of later Western art.

Experts assessing the basilica after the ceiling in the upper church collapsed, sending masonry crashing to the floor in clouds of dust, confirmed that the earthquake had destroyed a fresco above the main altar by Cimabue depicting the four evangelists and another attributed to Giotto (but disputed) entitled *The Doctors of the Church*.

One fresco definitely painted by Giotto showing St Francis and his devoted disciple, St Clare (founder of the Poor Clares), is disfigured by a jagged crack. But most of Giotto's 28 frescoes depicting scenes from St Francis's life are intact, as is the saint's tomb in the lower church.

The two earthquakes killed 11 people and left thousands homeless in the hill towns and villages of Umbria and Marche (the Marches). Many people said they were afraid to return to their homes after warnings that there might be further earthquakes. "Assisi looks as if it was hit by a bomb," said Antonio Paolucci, the former Minister of Culture who has been asked to supervise the rstoration effort, dubbed Operation Giotto.

Professor Federico Zeri, Italy's foremost art historian, said that during restoration of the basilica in the 1960s the great wooden crossbeams holding up the roof had been replaced by reinforced concrete. "That was madness," Professor Zeri said. Lorenzo de Angelis, the architect who was in charge of the restoration at the time, said that the decision to use cement had been taken after much agonising on the ground that there was a greater danger from fire than from earthquakes. Assisi had a history of destructive fires, he said.

Professor Zeri said that the basilica had stood for 700 years because the builders had used materials such as wood which were better able to withstand earthquakes. James Beck, Professor of the History of Art at Columbia University in New York, said he agreed that reinforced concrete, fashionable in the 1960s, had "completely altered the organic state of the basilica, making it lose its elasticity". He said other buildings were at risk because they had been similarly restored, including the great dome of Florence cathedral designed by Brunelleschi.

"Italy has been wounded at its heart," the banner headline in *Corriere della Sera* said. Giorgio Bartolini, Mayor of Assisi, appealed to tourists not to come to Assisi. The centre has been closed to traffic, with armed Carabinieri guarding the basilica.

Assisi residents noted that the earthquake had happened on St Francis's birthday, September 26, and recalled that Brother Leone, one of the first followers of St Francis, had pronounced an anathema on the "sumptous edifice" of the basilica when work began in 1228, arguing that it was contrary to the simple and spartan principles of the saint. "Sooner or later it will fall down", the friar prophesied, according to Father Marino Bigaroni, the Franciscan librarian at Assisi.

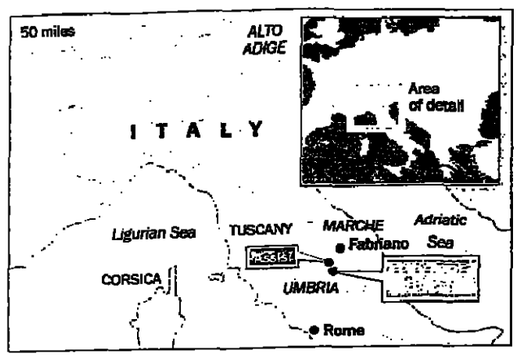
The first earthquake struck in the small hours of Friday and the second came while experts were examining the damage caused by the first. The ceiling collapse killed two Franciscan friars and two surveyors. The two surveyors were buried yesterday and the two dead Franciscans, one of whom was a 24-year-old friar from Poland who had only just arrived in Assisi, will be buried today.

Antonella Brunacci, sister of Bruno Brunacci, one of the dead surveyors, said that she was considering legal action on the ground that the restorers "should never have been sent back into the basilica when there was a clear danger of another earthquake". Enzo Boschi, head of the National Institute of Geophysics, said that seismologists had played down the risk of a second, more powerful earthquake in order not to spread panic. There had been fears of an earthquake to match those at Messina in 1908, which killed 100,000, in Friuli in 1976, when 1,000 died, and in Irpinia in 1980, when the death toll was 3,000.

Art experts are surveying 1,120 sites of artistic interest in Umbria. Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, said that the Government was setting aside £300 million in aid and that it aimed to restore the basilica in time for the millennium.

Experts from the British Museum and the Louvre have offered help. Renato Funicello, a leading geophyscist, said that preventive action should also be taken in Rome. He said much of ancient Rome within the Aurelian walls lay on the Tiberine alluvium, which instead of absorbing the impact of an earthquake would multiply its effect, "bringing down the Colosseum".

The disaster at Assisi has revived soul-searching over Italy's neglect of its art treasures. "We have masterpieces we do not deserve," said *Il Messaggero*. Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Culture Minister, appealed last week to industry to provide funds for Pompeii, which was "dying a second death" through neglect. Last year, La Fenice opera theatre in Venice burnt down and the Baroque cathedral at Noto in Sicily collapsed.



Thousands camp out

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of Italians, afraid to return to their homes in the earthquake zone, camped out for a second night after the twin tremors rocked central Italy. Most slept in cars or tents.

About 88,000 homes have been damaged in the quake, according to an initial civil defence report. "An average of 80 per cent of houses in the worst affected areas were built before 1981 and without consideration of anti-quake standards established at this time," Andrea Todisco, head of civil defence, said yesterday. He estimated that 200,000 people were resident in 20 towns and ten villages in the mountain area affected between Umbria and Marche (the Marches). Nearly 4,500 police, firemen, soldiers and volunteers were working to help victims.

Civil protection officials have helped to set up "tent cities" in the hilltop town of Assisi. A thousand caravans have been sent to the scene.

Gospel of Bob thrills papal audience

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope and Bob Dylan met briefly on stage at a pop concert at the weekend, with the 77-year-old pontiff carving yet another first in papal history by basing his homily on the words of a pop song, Dylan's 1963 hit *Blowin' In The Wind*.

"This is pop music in the service of the Almighty," said the organisers of the World Eucharistic Congress, a gathering for young Christians held in Bologna. The Pope regards "reaching out to the young" as one of the most vital tasks of the twilight years of his papacy.

The gathering of an estimated 300,000 young people, part of the Roman Catholic Church's preparations for the millennium, was attended by 50 cardinals.

Milly Carlucci, a long-legged "showgirl" who presents game shows on television, compered the concert, and read extracts from the Bible. Young Christians solemnly declaimed the texts of Bob Dylan's songs to the Pope, and the Harlem Gospel Singers belted out numbers. But it was Dylan who was the star turn.

It did not seem to matter that Dylan was a Jewish boy from Minnesota whose famous 1980s conversion to born-again Christianity was now shrouded in ambiguity (he recently attended his sons' bar mitzvah), or that the teenagers at Bologna regarded him as someone who sang protest songs to their parents.

He was still a legend. Dylan, 56, looked haggard and walked stiffly, the result perhaps of his nearly fatal heart infection in June. The Pope, who was animated and re-charged by the adulation of the young, looked in far better shape.

Dylan only sang three songs. He began with *Knocking On Heaven's Door*, followed by *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*, his anti-war classic. The Pope sat looking mildly bemused. Then Dylan bounded up to the dais, stumbling slightly, before bowing before the pontiff and shaking his hand. They spoke for a few seconds.

Then the Pope addressed the crowd: "You say the answer is blowing in the wind, my friend." He was enjoying this. "So it is: but it is not the wind that blows things away, it is the wind that is the breath and life of the Holy Spirit, the voice that calls and says, 'Come!'" There was stormy applause. "You ask me, how many roads must a man walk down before he becomes a man? I answer: one! There is only one road for man, and it is the road of Jesus Christ, who said I am the Way and the Life."

In the ovation that followed, Dylan launched into *Forever Young*. It was in the end a moving sight: the ageing rocker serenading a charismatic but ailing Pope beloved by the young — as his triumphant trip to Paris last month again showed.

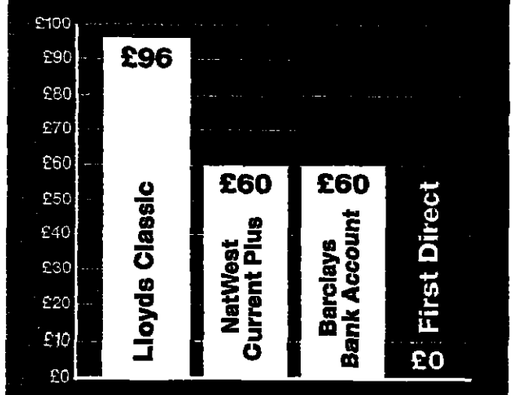
LUCA BRUNO / AP



The Pope watches Bob Dylan perform *Knocking On Heaven's Door* in Bologna

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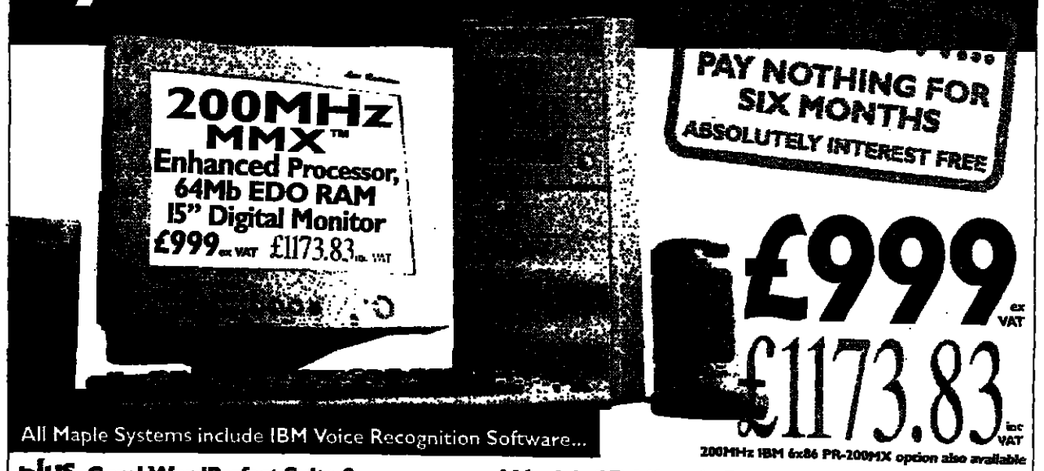
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Linguistic 'fingerprint' taken to court

A scientific technique used by lawyers to determine authorship is under scrutiny. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

Early next year, Dr Tony Hardcastle, a forensic scientist for 20 years, is planning to appear in a Western Australian court. Once there, he will announce, not for the first time, that a technique used to determine authorship of documents is scientifically flawed.

At stake are the convictions for fraud of two Australian brothers, who, in an appeal, are claiming that statements attributed to them were fabricated. Dr Hardcastle may well be joined by another expert witness, Professor David Canter, an investigative psychologist from Liverpool University, who several years ago produced a report for the Crown Prosecution Service exposing the alleged shakiness of the technique's scientific foundations. Yet, despite the dispute, the Cumulative Sum Analysis (Cusum) technique is still surfacing in courtrooms. And, according to Professor Canter, it raises grave concern about the use of science in criminal cases.

> 'I have never seen results so close to being random'

Cusum was developed during the Sixties by the Rev Andrew Morton, a Scots minister. It proposes that each of us develops a unique pattern of speech and writing. Mr Morton deduced that each individual was blessed with a linguistic "fingerprint". The essential ingredients of this fingerprint, Mr Morton claimed, were the frequency of short words (up to three letters long); and the frequency of vowel words (words beginning with vowels). He posited that these patterns of usage remained immutable under all conditions, even when the person was under stress, and were discernible in speech as well as writing. The pattern could be translated into a graph showing the usage of these types of words during a given text. By comparing the graphs derived from different passages, Mr Morton assumed it would be possible to determine whether the passages had been penned or spoken by the same person. He applied his methods to distinguishing authorship in literature; among other projects, he judged that Shakespeare's plays could not have been written by Bacon or Marlowe.

But lawyers were also intrigued — it seemed that merely by checking how closely two graphs matched, the technique could be used to uncover fabricated statements or confessions, and to identify the hand behind anonymous letters. The technique made a number of high-profile court appearances, including in the Bridgewater Four case. However, it is the use of Cusum in legal circles that arouses concern.

Despite widespread scepticism, Professor Canter, who first heard about Cusum nearly a decade ago, says he approached it with an open mind. "My initial view was that there might be something to it but that Morton was overselling it," he says.

Professor Canter tried to reproduce the technique using lots of written passages. "I was actually astounded. I have never seen results that are so close to being absolutely random." In other words, according to his experiment, the technique could not even vaguely distinguish whether passages had been authored by one person or many. Dr Canter was glad he got involved: "Somebody had to challenge it, and it was clear barristers didn't know how."

Mr Morton describes Professor Canter's critique as "mendacious and misleading. Anyone who reads my textbook and follows the analysis will find it valid. Canter and Hardcastle have knocked up Sallies of their own and demolish them to their own satisfaction. It is possible to attract attention and money by attacking the technique."

Dr Hardcastle, who runs a document examining company in Birmingham and is another Cusum critic, replies: "There are no ulterior motives. The aim of document examiners is to serve the courts. A good scientist should be able to accept criticism and move on. We would love to be able to identify authors without recourse to handwriting, which is why we took an interest. Unfortunately, when we try it out, it fails."

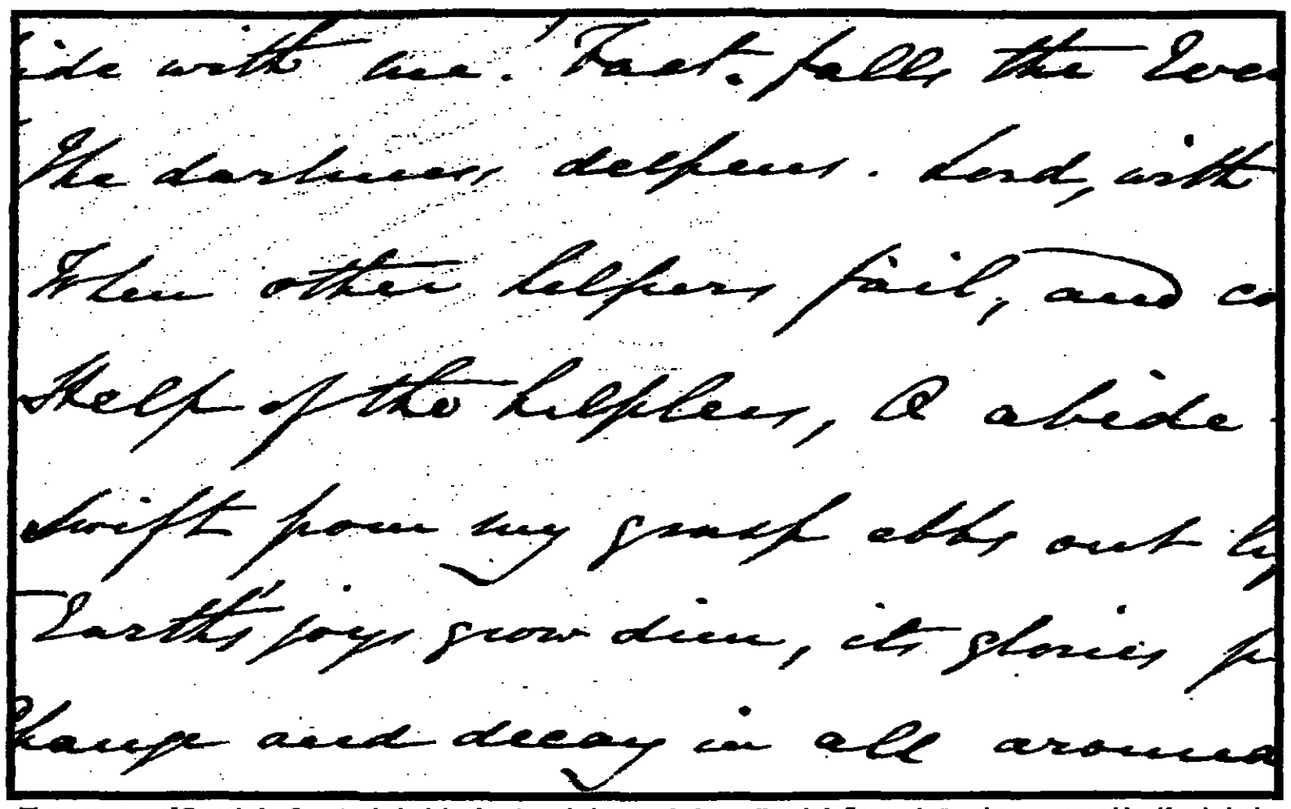
Dr Hardcastle's first complaint is that it is a subjective analysis. Morton claimed that anybody — a jury member, a judge, a lawyer — could inspect the graphs.

"You can show a graph to a jury, and they say 'Ooh, isn't it amazing how the graphs match up', and agree with the expert," Dr Hardcastle says. Indeed, by varying the scale on the side of the graph, Professor Canter points out: "You can get a graph to show pretty much what you like."

Another sticking point was that most people do not show drastic differences in their use of short words or vowel words — certainly not enough, in Dr Hardcastle's view, to make the technique useful: "Imagine constructing a sentence of more than ten words. Unless it's a very strange sentence, it is unlikely to have no short words, and it is unlikely to comprise only short words. So, the frequency of short words would not be zero per cent or 100 per cent, but cluster somewhere in the middle."

The problem, says Dr Hardcastle, is that individuals show variation in how often they use such words. And that variation is just as large as the variation between different people. It is therefore absolutely impossible, according to both Dr Hardcastle and Dr Canter, that Cusum can be used as a scientifically definitive indicator of the author of a document. Mr Morton responds that his two detractors are using a different technique; he refuses to be drawn on what the differences are.

There are wider questions raised by the Cusum dispute, says Professor Canter, whose research group is engaged in examining the principles used in forensic science. "There is a fundamental issue here, and that is that people are usually totally in thrall to the view of an expert. If he talks with confidence, puts in just enough technical jargon and can show a picture to support his case, then he will be listened to even if the rest of the scientific community disagrees with him."



The supporters of Cumulative Sum Analysis claim that the technique can isolate a "linguistic fingerprint" so that courts can identify criminals

Spinal injury hope

SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes



SCIENTISTS at the Medical Research Council's National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, north London, have used a new technique to heal spinal cord damage in rats. Should the method also work on human spinal injuries, the implications will be considerable. A successful technique could enable thousands of people paralysed in accidents to escape from wheelchairs.

The difficulty is persuading the nerves in the spinal cord to grow and rejoin once they have been damaged. While some animals are able to do this, mammals cannot. Research at many laboratories around the world is devoted to establishing the circumstances in which nerve fibres will grow.

The Mill Hill scientists, Ying Li, Pauline Field and Geoffrey Raisman, caution that their results do not have immediate application in humans because the type of injury they were able to repair was relatively minor and of a kind unlikely to arise in human patients. It is, nevertheless, a major advance in the field and the team hopes to begin human trials within a couple of years.

The team report, in *Science*, that they succeeded in repairing spinal cord damage in rats by transplanting into the damaged area a type of cell from the inside of the nose, called olfactory ensheathing cells. These cells are easily harvested, and continuously produced. Their function is to provide the pathway through which nerves from the nose carrying the sense of smell grow into the brain.

The olfactory cells were removed from the rats, cultured and purified, and then injected into tiny areas of damage on the animal's spine. The damage, less than half a millimetre across, prevented the rats from reaching out with their front paws and scooping food.

After the nose cells were injected, the team observed the nerve cells at the point of damage repair themselves, and the treated rats were once again able to reach out — showing that the function of the nerve had been restored. This is the first time this has ever been done, Dr Raisman says.

"We are starting to examine the possibility of transferring the technique to humans," he says. "The principle is much the same as skin-grafting. We would take cells from the nose, grow them, then transplant them into the damaged area. The properties of the cells is critical — for instance, how many kinds of damage are they applicable to? We don't know the answer to that yet."

The team's paper contains an unusual dedication, to Diana, Princess of Wales, who opened the Norman and Sadie Lee Research Centre at Mill Hill in 1988. "She gave years of unstinting support to people in wheelchairs," the dedication reads. "Her untimely death prevented her from seeing this result, with which she would have been so pleased." Support for the research has come from a British couple living in California, Norman and Sadie Lee, who have given £3 million through the British Neurological Research Trust.

Key to corneal transplant success seen in rats



THOUSANDS of corneal transplants are carried out every year, with a very high success rate. It may seem surprising that corneas can be transplanted without rejection, but to be as transparent as possible a cornea has no blood vessels, making it difficult for the immune system to attack the foreign cells. When the immune system does attack the result is a failed transplant. Up to three quarters of repeat transplants fail, says Dr Jerry Niederkorn, of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas.

He wondered if the chances could be improved by exposing patients before the transplant to skin or eye tissue from the donor. Instead of injecting the material, which would have stimulated the immune response, he fed it to rats in which corneal blood vessel growth had been stimulated, on the principle that the intestine accepts foreign proteins and that they might work as a "reverse vaccine". Reports in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* suggest that it works — the rats rejected only 9 per cent of the corneas. Human trials may start next year.

Mussel power explained

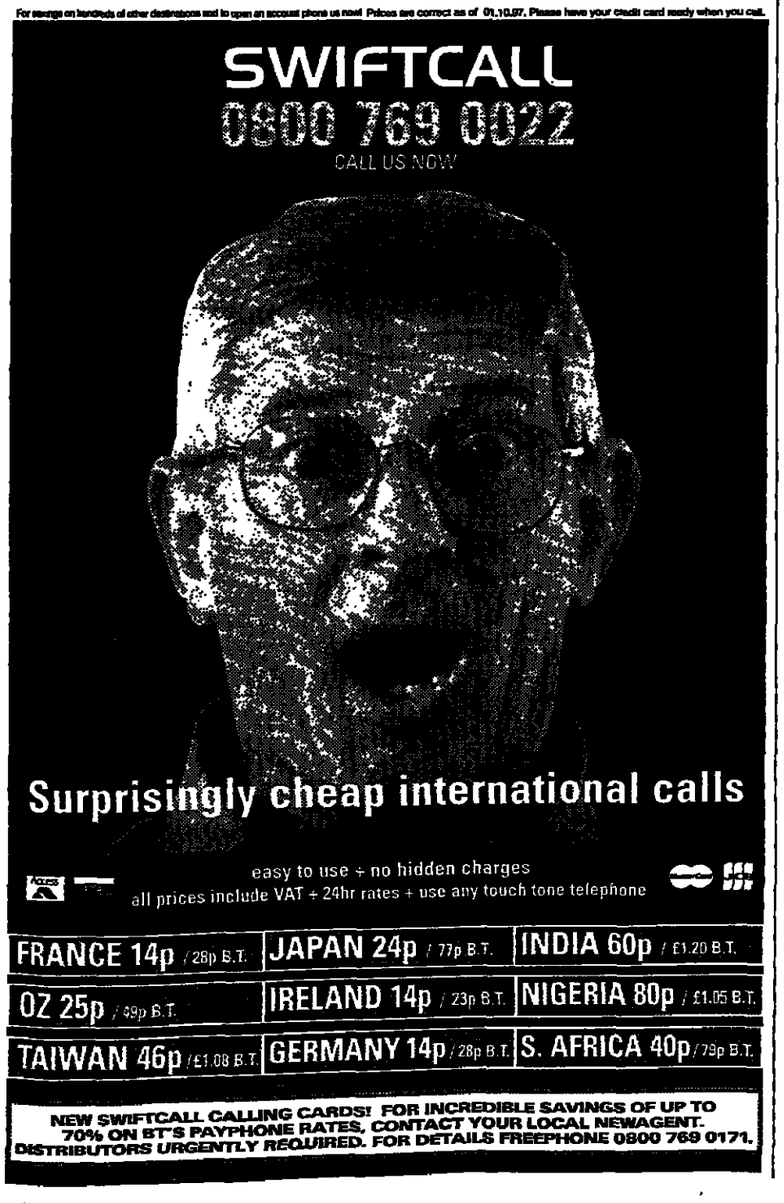


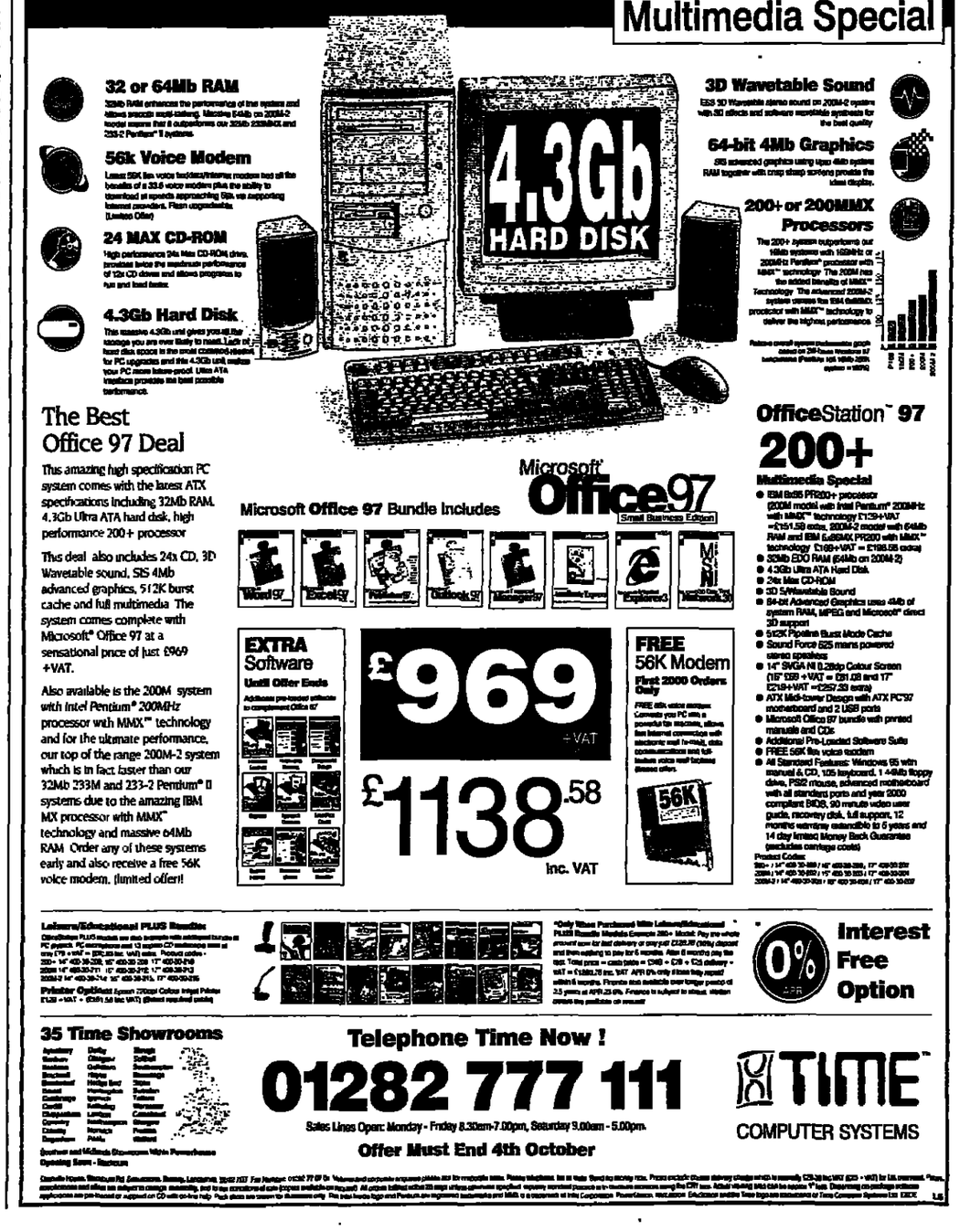
THE tenacity with which mussels cling to rocks is the result of a material five times tougher and 16 times stretchier than a human tendon, scientists at the University of Delaware have discovered. The byssal threads contain a protein that combines the characteristics of collagen and elastin, two structural proteins found in bone and skin. The elastin-like regions are rich in the amino acids glycine and alanine, which are also found in spider silk.

At one end the thread has a stiff tether, at the other a shock absorber protruding from the mussel's foot. The gradual transition from one type of material to the other gives the threads their remarkable properties. "If a byssal thread were simply a stiff stick attached to an elastic tube, it wouldn't have an outside chance of surviving these relentless tidal beatings," says Professor Herbert Waite of the University of Delaware.

No man-made material can yet match these properties, but studying the mussel could help to develop one. Ultimately, Professor Waite suggests, the lessons might produce comfortable and pliable artificial skin or even better steel-belted radials or shoes.

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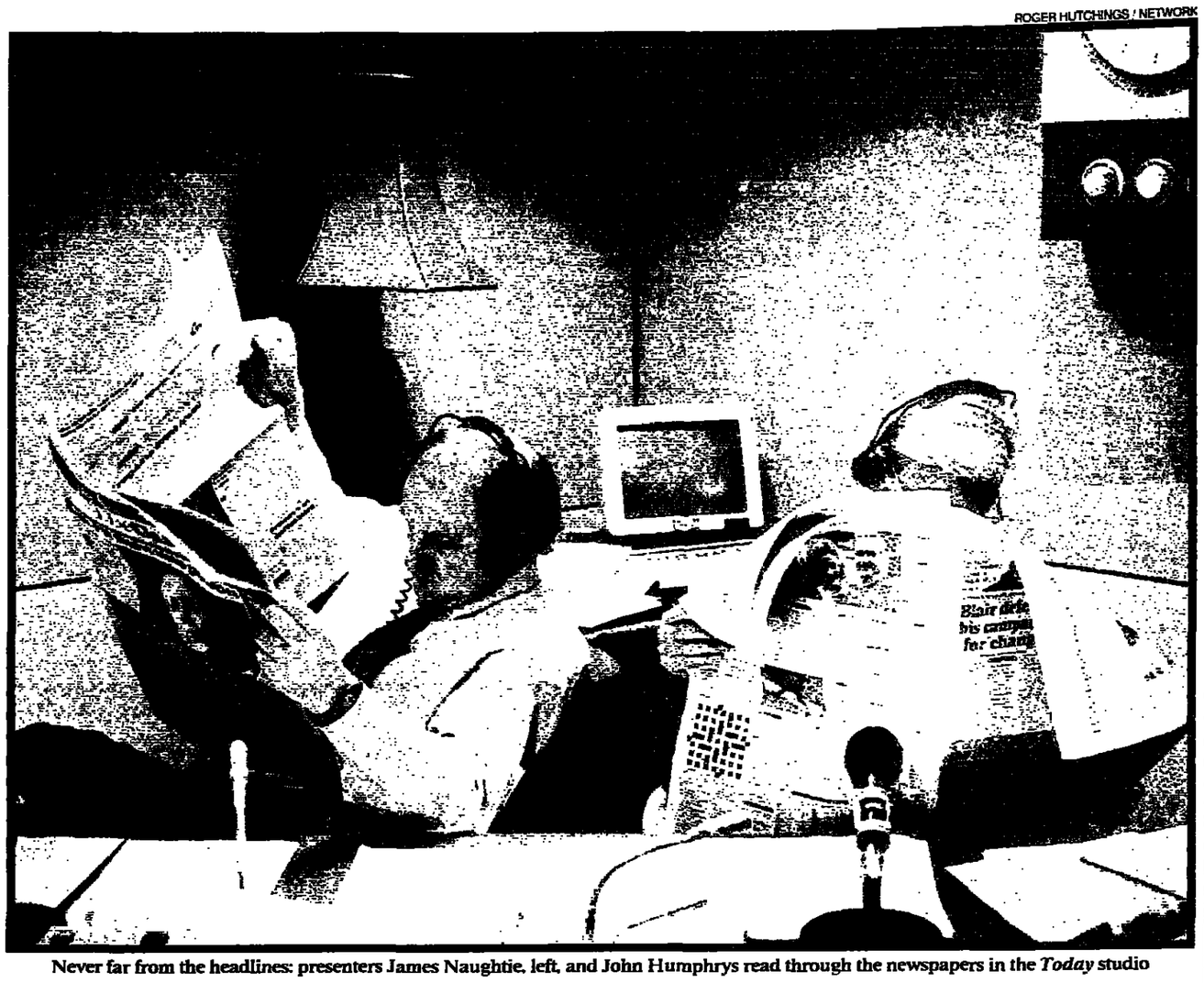




A word in the nation's ear

Paul Donovan introduces extracts from his new book, revealing the conflicts and controversy behind Britain's most influential radio programme

ROGER HUTCHINGS / NETWORK



Never far from the headlines: presenters James Naughtie, left, and John Humphrys read through the newspapers in the *Today* studio

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare told me he thought Jeremy Paxman was "an ill-mannered lout". John Timpson described a newspaper article by John Humphrys as "insufferably pompous". Not until 11 days ago, however, did they discover how powerful the two men could be.

It was the open rebellion of the news presenters that stopped the BBC's latest reorganisation dead in its tracks, an uprising that manifested itself both in a protest letter signed by Humphrys and all seven of his senior Radio 4 colleagues (Sue MacGregor, James Naughtie, Anna Ford, James Cox, Chris Lowe, Robin Lustig and Nick Clarke, who composed it) and in Paxman's angry remark about turning news into a "sausage factory".

> *Today* will continue to make news as often as it reports it

If the changes had gone ahead, Jon Barton, *Today*'s editor, would have been downgraded to "associate editor". He would have been stripped of most of *his budget and all his capacity* to gather stories, run staff and arrange interviews in his own way. His fellow editors, enjoying similar autonomy over programmes as diverse as *PM* and *The World Tonight* on Radio 4, *Breakfast News* on BBC1 and *Newsnight* on BBC2, would also have been reduced to ciphers. Homogeneity would have spread through the output from the central presence of five powerful new "executive editors" in charge of news and current affairs across all domestic BBC radio and television.

With the BBC's "bi-media" approach introduced by John Birt, now Director-General, there is already a marked overlap between radio and television coverage, and some *fear this trend will become* even more pronounced with "co-siting" — the enforced move of all BBC radio news programmes by the end of next year to the BBC Television Centre in Shepherds Bush.

"What would have happened under these proposals", says Peter Hobday, co-presenter of *Today* from 1982 to 1996 and now the main presenter of Radio 3's Morning Collection, "is that an interview with, say, the Chancellor would be done by one person and then that one interview would be cut up and re-edited for different programmes throughout the day.

"So instead of 15 different programmes queueing up to interview Gordon Brown, he would do just the one interview and hope it would be used on 15 different programmes. You can see the commercial advantage. It needs fewer people and saves money. But it is treating news as a product — like sausages, in Paxman's analogy."

The proposals, in their present form, have now been ditched. For this we must thank editors' reasoned objections, staff mutiny and presenter power — even if many listeners do regard presenters as overpaid and overbearing — and also Sir Christopher Bland, an ardent *Today* fan for more than 30 years. His concern for the programme was overlooked by the trio of news executives (Tony Hall, Richard Clemmow and Steve Mitchell) who planned the reorganisation and tried to sell it to a uniformly hostile staff.

Even when Sir Christopher's wife, Jennie, was a director of TV-am and helped launch it in 1983, he could stomach breakfast television for only a fortnight before returning with a sigh of relief to *Today* where, significantly, he gave his first interview on becoming Chairman of the BBC last year.

He called in Birt and Tony Hall, Chief Executive of BBC News, and requested a delay. Contrite statements followed. The proposals are expected to be redrawn at the next governors' meeting, on October 23.

Only one thing can be predicted with any confidence, which is that *Today* will continue to make news as often as it reports it. Turn the clock back and we remember Peter Hobday's sacking; Labour's attempts last December to rig the Personality of the Year poll; Tory assaults on Brian Redhead.

The 1970s saw an even bigger furore when *Today* was brutally cut into two and Peter Donaldson, Radio 4's chief announcer, was almost fired when he called himself "Donald Peterson" on air and made a rude remark about it. Going back further still, there were endless problems over Jack de Manio, not just because of his inability to tell the time, but also when he sneered at John Lennon's wife as "Yoko Hama, or whatever her name is" and engaged in jocular speculation about the couple's sex life.

Only nine people in every 100 listen to *Today*. But those nine include the civil servants, Cabinet ministers, MPs, teachers, academics, leader writers, journalists and industrialists. *Today* remains *the* national noticeboard of the decision-making classes. Just as Brian Redhead said, it is still the place for dropping a word in the nation's ear: and judging by the furore of the last fortnight, parts of the nation still take great notice of the words that are dropped.

● *Paul Donovan is the radio columnist of* The Sunday Times

MEMO FROM ROBIN DAY

IN JULY 1955 — two months before ITV came on air — Robin Day sent a memo to his then BBC boss, John Green, suggesting an early morning "topical talks miscellany" to go out between 8am and 9am.

"Morning Review" would give intelligent, pithy comment and description of the sort found on the feature-pages of newspapers and in the more serious diary columns. *There would* be three or four short talks (with the occasional interview). These would be all conversationally linked, without scripted presentation, by a skilled broadcaster who would give the programme form and personality without intruding his own opinions.

Day added: "As television advances, sound radio will find more and more that early morning programmes command its big audiences. These are now its big opportunity. Another point is that there is a steadily increasing audience to car radios. This element must be particularly large first thing in the morning when people are motoring to work. Why should we not offer them comment and description that the rail or bus traveller can read in his newspaper?

"As regards contributors, 'Morning Review' could draw on the younger journalists, anxious to make their names, who ought not to mind getting up for an early programme before their day's work."

In fact, the early *Today* was strikingly similar to what Day suggested in that revolutionary memo. Initially the programme had two editions, at 7.15am and 8.15am, but the second consisted largely of a repeat of the first and each one was approximately 20 minutes long, only a little longer than Day's suggested 15.

However, Day was a mere pipsqueak, a temporary talks producer aged 31. His idea was greeted with incredulity: nobody imagined that there could be any demand for such a service, and thus there was no point in starting it. Day agreed that there was no demand, any more than there had been for a morning news bulletin in 1939, when there was nothing on national radio until the religious service at 10.15am. But few could imagine life without an 8am news bulletin now. It was the job of broadcasters to offer choices, he suggested. Few agreed with him. Sir Robin told me: "They thought I was a nutcase."

Day left the BBC a few weeks later to join the fledgling ITN as one of its first newsreaders, in time for the birth of ITV in September 1955. He does not claim to be the inventor of *Today*, but he was one of its main progenitors. Indeed, two of the people to whom he copied his memo, Elisabeth Rowley and Stephen Bonarjee, actually went on to run the programme in the late 1950s and 1960s and found themselves refining some of the ideas he had put forward in the summer of 1955.

THE DEMISE OF PETER HOBDAY

THE LEAST pleasant task Roger Mosey had as editor was not renewing Peter Hobday's contract in 1996. Mosey, now Controller of Radio 5 Live, underestimated the widespread hostility this would arouse. *The Times* launched a Save Hobday Campaign and Hobday was accused of fomenting it, although it was quite genuine. "Out in listener land they like his jokes, they like him, they even like his frequent bulletins on the health of the camellias in the garden of his Kensington home," Hugo Gurdon wrote. Hobday was also not above making jokes about his girth. Nor were his colleagues: once, after a travel item about an abnormal load going down the A40, Timpson remarked that it must have been Hobday.

No official explanation was given by the BBC for its action. Even when Mosey wrote to *The Times* denying that it was connected with "age, class or accent" he failed to give his reasons.

The truth was that Hobday had always been a third man — that is how he started in the Timpson-Redhead era — and the BBC wanted its *Today* presenters to have higher profiles. There were also grumbles about his commitment to the programme and the extent to which he would ignore briefing documents written for him by the production team.

Timpson, who worked with Hobday for nearly five years, has another explanation for the sacking.

"I think Peter Hobday was the most underrated person who ever worked on the *Today* programme. Always charming, always good-humoured, toiling away and doing the same dreadful hours and the same sort of interviews. The reason he fell out is because he is not part of the new aggressive knock 'em down and kick 'em brigade. He was the last breath of sanity."

TIMPSON's view may well have had much truth in it, as Hobday himself conceded with self-deprecating grace: "A fat, middle-aged hack like me didn't really square with the lean, mean interview machine. Nobody ever said to me 'You're crap'. But when people say my interviewing wasn't as 'sharp' as it could be, they mean that it wasn't invasive and I didn't feel the need to scream and shout. I always felt you could undermine an illogical argument with a good question, and ask questions with a smile in your voice."

On Hobday's last programme, in March 1996, there was no mention of his departure. Afterwards there was no party, no final handshake, no gold watch.

He said: "I have had no letter of thanks from anyone in authority, no farewell lunch or dinner, nothing. I walked out of Broadcasting House on that Saturday morning after the programme. It was the end of 25 years with BBC News and Current Affairs and there was nothing to mark it. I never did anything to let them down and there was nothing, not even a phone call. That's the only bitterness I really feel."

THE HUMPHRYS-NAUGHTIE TEAM

JOHN HUMPHRYS is the presenter most often mentioned by the famous in connection with *Today*. "Brian Redhead was the big one, but after his death Humphrys took over and has really taken the top spot now," said Lord Archer. "I think Jim Naughtie is very conscious of the battle between him and Humphrys."

Naughtie was phlegmatic about this: "Well, that's just his view. There's no battle. Competitiveness, professional competitiveness, of course. We're both trying to do a job very well. What we're not trying to do is do each other down. We've got more things to worry about than having a battle with each other." He also dismissed any notion of a pecking order: "John and I are a team. We've got to be. If we weren't it wouldn't work . . . I understand that people are fascinated by our relationship but it's not a relationship, it's coming in and doing a job . . . it's a two-presenter show."

Talented and driven, Humphrys rose swiftly through the ranks in the 1970s and 1980s. He was the northern industrial correspondent, BBC TV's first full-time correspondent in both America, and South Africa, the diplomatic correspondent, and finally presenter of *Nine O'Clock News*.

Some people think the present set-up is the best yet. "Redhead didn't do much for me," says Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC.

"Both Humphrys and Naughtie are, in my view, better interviewers than Redhead," says Austin Mitchell. "Brian could be fobbed off with an easy answer. An answer to which he was sympathetic would satisfy him, whereas he should have questioned it. Humphrys is more persistent and so is Naughtie, and they can do it without alienating people. They don't do hectoring 'Come off it' interviews of the Paxman variety."

● *Extracted from* All Our Todays *by Paul Donovan, published by Jonathan Cape on October 6, £15.99*

TOMORROW



Timpson and Redhead: one of the greatest double-acts in radio history



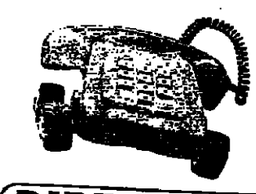
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'I am destined to have some strange binge of trying to escape from myself'

After fleeing the stage on the brink of suicide, Stephen Fry is making peace with himself. Interview by **Grace Bradberry**



Once famously celibate, Fry now has a partner: "We make decisions about what's going in the conservatory, things like that"

Whoever else reads it, Stephen Fry's autobiography is sure to be devoured by psychologists. Until he walked out on the West End production of *Cell Mates*, two-and-a-half years ago, there was a curious symmetry to his life. Before the age of 20 he was a troubled and troublesome boy. His personal history encompassed kleptomania, expulsion from public school, imprisonment for credit card fraud, and covert but active homosexuality. After 20 he emerged, via a scholarship to Cambridge, as one of the most charming, intelligent and successful performers of his generation, a warm, fogeyish, polymath whose chief eccentricity was to remain celibate. The bizarre unplanned trip to Bruges forms a sort of large, unexplained crater.

One might expect his autobiography, *Moab is my Washpot*, to throw some light on all this, but while it is on the surface a deeply confessional book, it finishes when Fry is 20. In the rather orotund Afterword, he declares that he now feels "Less dirty about the first 20 years of my life, at least. The second 20, now *that* is another story..."

But it's not of course, it's all the same story, although Fry confesses that he finds it hard to make the connection. "It's a most peculiar thing because one changes so much and yet it is the same person inside. It's my memory and I know it was me, and yet every molecule of my body has changed since then," he confides. And it really does *feel* as though Fry is sharing confidences, as we sit together in an upstairs room at the Groucho Club, even though the reality is that he is the master of evasion and diversionary tactics.

Ditto the book. By the end, you feel mired in the visceral details of Fry's childhood. He describes early sexual play, the loss of his virginity in a disused outside lavatory at Uppingham, his public school, and he recalls whole conversations with various disapproving headmasters. Yet he skirts over an argument with his father that led him to make a suicide attempt at 16. "I cannot recall the reason," he insists.

His comic persona is often smug, overbearing and mannered. The man himself is none of these. His voice, as he chats to the receptionists downstairs, is sonorous but solicitous. Then he steps gingerly into the room, shakes hands with surprising diffidence, and paces about a bit, offering an explanation for his tweed jacket — the cold weather — before taking it off, and apologising for his crumpled shirt. Despite his reputation as a professional Englishman, he is wearing Timberland.

He wrote *Moab*, he says, because his publishers were keen and because writing would make a change after filming *Wilde*. "I think my publishers expected it to be full of amazing anecdotes about making *Blackadder* and that kind of thing. I hadn't actually told them that mostly what I had in my head was an autobiography that went up to the age of 18 and no further." He broke it to them half way through. "And they took it very well."

Perhaps his editor at Hutchinson did expect a certain amount of Groucho Club gossip, but some explanation of Fry's extraordinary disappearance, breakdown and seamless comeback must have been eagerly awaited. "Erm, I think it may have crossed their mind that I would talk about that, but I was just not in the least bit interested in doing so," he says. His voice is raw with a slight edge. "I don't think it's fair on anybody involved in *Cell Mates*. I don't think it's fair to Simon Gray. I mean, I know he wrote a book. I still haven't read it. I haven't had the heart and you know, why revive a dead thing? I don't feel that I have to justify myself, or... condemn myself, you know?"

> 'I feel less dirty about the first 20 years of my life'

It's a rather sad speech. Gray's account of the *Cell Mates* debacle, *Fat Chance*, portrays Fry as fundamentally selfish, an eccentric millionaire, so cushioned by early wealth — his payment for re-writing the musical *Me And My Girl* aged 24 was a 3 per cent share of the vast royalties — that he is oblivious to the financial hardship that his "defection" will inflict on others.

When Fry turns up in Bruges, alive and apparently well, Gray is enraged — all the more so because the English couple who spotted Fry said he was wearing a beret. "Everybody asks 'Why Bruges?' and there is no Bruges," says Fry wearily. "After getting off the ferry at Zeebrugge, I was heading east and I stopped off there for lunch and an English couple happened to see me."

He has since told Anthony Clare how he nearly gassed himself in his car, before thinking of the impact on his family and heading for the Continent instead. Even so, it was three days before he let them know he wasn't dead. "I did eventually ring people but only when I realised quite what a fuss was being made." And also, he admits, because, "I discovered from somebody that someone had given details of my last cash withdrawal to a tabloid journalist. I thought 'Eventually they're going to corner me in some hotel in Hamburg or Copenhagen and I'll feel such an idiot. I'll be a cornered rat with no one around at all'."

There is a strikingly similar passage in the autobiography when Fry, on the run with various credit cards, finds the police at the door of his hotel bedroom. "Perhaps I'm destined every 20-odd years or so to have some strange binge of trying to escape from myself," suggests Fry. "Hotels are terrible things — I mean I love them still, but there is something pretty mournful about them."

It is not the only parallel. After he made contact, Fry's father and doctor flew out to Amsterdam to meet him — a sort of regression, surely, to the times, vividly described in *Moab*, when his father met him after rustication, expulsion or imprisonment. "It was terrible. I was nervous as hell," he says. "I drove overnight from Hamburg to Amsterdam through the snow, and there was my father and doctor waiting for me. It was great. They were terribly understanding. There was a lot of rueful amusement — at least in this case no one felt I'd committed a crime. There really *was* a moral difference."

Nevertheless, Duncan Weldon sued him for £500,000, and Fry's initial statement that he had suffered "not so much a nervous breakdown, more a nervous stalling", was followed by a week in a private London clinic where he was given psychiatric treatment. He then flew to Los Angeles, reappearing months later to make a speech at Dundee University, where he is rector. By then he was considerably slimmer and had blond hair.

It seemed another comic twist — but was in fact an attempt to recover from his breakdown. "I was in a very low state and I didn't know what to do. There was nothing I could do about my state of mind, but I thought I could do something about my body, as a symbol of the fact that I might be able to alter myself inside. I didn't think it would make me *happy*... so I had these splendid pecs for a year."

He also saw a therapist, to whom he told the whole story "from the beginning". Where was the beginning? "I don't know, to be honest. Probably two or three years before. *Cell Mates* was a catalyst and it's deeply unfair on Simon Gray or Rik Mayall to think it was anything to do with them."

Gray's bitterness was that Fry brought down what he considered his first "critic-proof" play. Though Mayall kept a dignified silence, he is said to have come off stage sobbing, after playing to audiences of 50. Fry has seen neither since. "The last letter I had from Gray was an extremely friendly one. It said 'I'm sure we'll smile and laugh about this over dinner'. And we haven't. I haven't seen him since and I haven't deliberately avoided him." Fry has written to Mayall, "and again I haven't seen him for ages now. But we have lots of mutual friends and I'm sure we'll bump into each other again and give one another a big hug. I hope so." He doesn't sound very sure.

Gray concludes his account, *Fat Chance*, with a couple of observations on Fry's character. The first is that Fry, for all his sociability, never really connects with people. "The Man Who Wasn't There," is Gray's memorable phrase. When I put this to him, Fry actually agrees. "I think that's fair," he says, before going off down a rather different track: "I think sometimes I underestimate the effect I have on other people. That is to say the sheer size and manner can be intimidating. Because I'm aware of that, part of me holds back sometimes — because I don't want to seem too, ah, too intimidating, ah, too *pleased* with myself." He is indeed tall (6ft 4in), but it is odd to think of someone still being self-conscious about it at 40.

> 'I realised that I was lonely. I was simply lonely'

The second observation made by Gray is that had Fry had a partner, he would have retained some perspective and never run off. "I think that's probably true," he concurs. "One of the things I realised was that I was lonely. I was simply lonely."

After 15 years of celibacy he now has a boyfriend. He never *meant* to be celibate anyway. Public remarks like "I can't *bear* relationships" or, "Who wants to have their bellies slapping together?" do not serve as encouragement, but he insists these were never *pronouncements*. The timing of his relationship is no coincidence. "These things suddenly flick inside you, a bit like what made me think I must get some A levels, I must get to Cambridge," he says, referring to the sudden determination with which he turned his life around after the prison sentence. "I used to listen sometimes to people using the word 'we' in the sense of 'Oh, we saw that film.' With me, it was always 'I' — 'I did this, I did that'."

He will now have Sunday brunch in Chinatown and instead of arriving at his Norfolk home assuming the housekeeper will have done everything "we make decisions about what's going to be in the conservatory or whether we need a new bathroom, things like that". He has become less of a workaholic: "Before, I just went to places because work was involved. Now we have weekends away."

At one point in his autobiography, he embarks on a lengthy diatribe against homophobes. He had just read a piece by Sir Peregrine Worsthorne arguing against a statue of Oscar Wilde. Fry, who had just finished playing the title role in the film *Wilde*, was incensed, and his response was to write that what homophobes found threatening was not sex between two men, but love. He may be right, but reading the autobiography one cannot help but notice Fry's own distaste for sex or his self-disgust whenever he describes his appearance. "I've always had a problem with my own physical sense, and a Swiftian preoccupation with the details of physicality." Indeed, when he tries to describe why he could not ask his friends for help as he headed for a nervous breakdown, he provides a rather graphic analogy of having a genital wart and preferring to show it to a doctor. This is not done for effect. He just talks like this.

And he certainly does have a very odd attitude to his body. "If I did have the choice of not having a body and being a strange little thing that floated around, then I would be very cheerful about it," he says. "Yet part of me knows that I wouldn't because I enjoy smoking, drinking tea — all the pleasures of the body." But he says he is no longer "crippled" by his self-image, as he was in his twenties.

That others have such a fixed image of him remains an irritant. "Part of the *Cell Mates* thing, I suppose, was endlessly reading character descriptions of myself by people who didn't know me. I thought 'Well I really don't know who I am. These sort of people do. They think I'm tweedy, they think I belong in St James's'. Well, I spend most of my time in Soho playing snooker in the Groucho Club. But they don't think that fits. They would rather I was playing billiards in the Travellers' Club or the Garrick." He *does* live in St James's, and he does wear tweed jackets. "But I think some people think my larynx is made of tweed." And you can see his point.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Stephen Fry



STEPHEN Fry, whose public face is internationally well known, reveals his private face in this *Times*/Dillons forum, on Tuesday October 7. He will be in conversation with Nicholas Wapshott. The discussion will cover his days at boarding school, the beatings he survived, the love he felt, the misery he suffered, his time in prison and his subsequent highly successful career. The forum, which marks the publication of his autobiography, *Moab is my Washpot* (Hutchinson, £16.99) will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted in sign language.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me ..... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Forum with Stephen Fry at 7.30pm on Tuesday, October 7, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

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ON THE ARTS PAGES

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Plus, the Royal Ballet hits the road — page 23

Bad smell from cooking the library books

MELVYN BRAGG



Watchdogs rarely fail to bark. Cultural watchdogs are no exception. Audit commissions have headlines to make. "Waste of everybody's time: everything fine" would just not do. Nor would: "It's not their fault, but we are paid to be critical."

A critical report by the Audit Commission has announced that the library service is due for renewal. Do we have to pay for this information? Cuts in book-buying budgets over many years, closure of branches, culling of staff, shortening of hours, persistent under-funding, overall neglect — these have been the currency of library news for many years. Real news would be: "Libraries to get funds and attention necessary to *do essential job well.*"

The report reveals the blinkering limitations of a wholly financial point of departure. This is not a plea that cultural organisations be treated more tenderly than any other — most cultural institutions I know of survive in an intense market and at levels of remuneration and investment which would cripple most other businesses. But it is to bring attention to the lack of realism inside a report which, because it is called "audit" and is soaked in solemn statistics, is supposed to represent the true realities in late 20th-century capitalist society.

The real realism is balanced columns, totted-up figures, smiling accountants and things that controllers of our destinies can push around to great effect in meetings or on the memoranda which police or enable our lives — though which it does often depends on chance, I suspect, as much as anything else.

The Audit Commission states that £14 million a year could be saved by better stock management, mostly by getting books cheaper from booksellers and British publishers. Let the Audit Commissioners try. Publishers and booksellers are fully stretched. Of course there could be the bright idea of buying fewer books — not a great move, though, for a library service whose extraordinary characteristic is that it is free and available to everyone, everywhere.

Another Audit Commission ploy is to ignore everything that cannot be measured. The role of the library in the community (this is no glib catch-all; libraries serve communities in scores of ways) and its often admired purpose as a catalyst for continuous learning are outside pricing, therefore outside value, therefore given no weight at all in the argument.

The decline in book borrowing is emphasised with a sort of funereal triumph as it seems to prove so very much. In truth it scarcely proves anything worth knowing. Our auditors lump all borrowings together and fail to show that the borrowing of children's books, for example, is going up, as is the borrowing of adult educational non-fiction. Light reading is down. And in libraries properly funded and sensibly open, borrowing is not going down at all. Why did the Audit Commission not draw the obvious conclusions from that?

The same inadequate reasoning applies to the cost-per-issue point made by the commission. In Manchester's central library, which maintains a magnificent reference section, cost-per-issue is bound to be more than in a small purely lending branch. This significant distinction is not made.

Nor is there any notice taken of the wider social context. Waterstone's in Birmingham, for example, is open until 9pm on weekdays and most of Sunday. If you want a book in late hours or over the weekend, which libraries can begin to compete? We live increasingly in a 24-hour world — supermarkets, garages, radio and television stations, corner shops, clubs. Libraries have not been allowed to enter into this.

The Audit Commission advocates more technology, and libraries seem to me to be berated almost as if librarians were personally responsible for lack of technology. First of all, where librarians have the funds they have embraced technology, and in such libraries (Lincoln is a good example) the place just hums and the books still go out.

And how can the Audit Commission have forgotten what happened a few months ago? In February the Library Association had its second attempt to raise £50 million in lottery money turned down. This sum (considerably less than has gone to many a building or institution) would have connected every library in the United Kingdom to the Internet. Why on earth was it turned down? To blame the libraries for not having what they have been prevented from having is a bit rough. This enormous unique national asset has been downgraded for so long it has ceased to be part of the main cultural argument.

But since May the cultural argument has changed, and over the next few months help may be at hand. Tony Blair's "education" rallying cry becomes more relevant every week. Matthew Evans, the chairman of Faber & Faber, has led a committee over the past year on the future of libraries and the report will be published in October. Chris Smith has already seen it and publicly he has stated: "The report . . . is a very significant document for the future of the library sector . . . I personally believe the report represents a *defining moment not just for the public libraries but for the sector as a whole.*"

Chris Smith stressed that he was speaking personally, but let's hope that from his mouth those words go directly to the Cabinet's ear.

THEATRE: A ground-breaking gay play loses its sting after 28 years; Homer finds a friend in the North

Dated by a gang of has-beens

The Boys in the Band
King's Head, N1

Mart Crowley's serious comedy about gay life in the East Fifties appeared in New York in 1968 and in London a year later. Over there, it clearly struck some collective nerve, because it ran 1,000 performances in an off-Broadway theatre. Here, it received huge attention because it dealt openly and sympathetically with a subject that had been anathema to the Lord Chamberlain, who had only just had his blue pencil torn from his grasp.

But how does the play look 28 years later? Does Kenneth Elliott's revival prove that there is still juice in its veins, or has it dwindled into a period piece? Well, it goes without saying that any play in which people talk fondly of New York bath houses would nowadays have to raise the matter of Aids: but that does not seem too gross an omission. The assumption of some of the characters that homosexuality comes more from nurture than nature is likely to bother gay audiences more.

But what really dates the play is something positively welcome. If Crowley were writing today, he would surely not feel the need to attack homosexual self-hatred and heterosexual prejudice in quite so unsubtle a manner.

Michael (edgy Robin Hart) is throwing a birthday do for Harold (svelte Luke Williams). The guests include Emory (camp, flouncing Earl Grey), Bernard (gentle Don Gilet) and square, pipe-smoking Hank (Norman Cooley), who has just left his family for the coolly promiscuous Larry (Ian Kahn). There are understandable tensions between the last two; but these are minor beside those that appear when Alan, a married lawyer whom Michael knew before he emerged from the sexual closet, somewhat improbably crashes the party.

Paul Venables, who plays Alan, has understandable trouble bringing credibility to someone who behaves in his old chum's house like a caricature Lord Queensberry confronted with a roomful of Wildes. He must punch poor Emory in the face, yelling "faggot, fairy, freak, freak, freak", then throw up in the bathroom, then sit in the corner looking as if someone has hit him over the head with a mallet. The reason, as if we hadn't guessed, is that his marriage is in trouble because he himself has "tendencies" he cannot acknowledge.

Homophobia in upper-crust America would surely take more guileful forms nowadays, and so would the self-loathing that afflicts Alan's host. This, too, is over-obviously signalled. We're carefully informed that drinking makes Michael aggressive and that he resents his mother for having treated him more as a girl than a boy. So what are we to conclude when he downs a tumbler of gin, starts hurling racist slurs at Jewish Harold and black Bernard, and tells Emory nobody would wish to go to bed "with a flaming little sissy like you". When one of his targets comes back with "you're sad and pathetic because you're a homosexual and don't want to be", it seems about as surprising a diagnosis as telling a man who sneezes a lot that he has a cold.

Some of the acting is more stilted and precious than it should be, but, even if it were better, the play's limitations would be evident. With a kissogram cowboy and hustler ranging the stage saying predictably dim things, there are amusing moments. But the effect is of a cutprice version of Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*: less witty, cruder, and not as much fun.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Michael (Robin Hart), Larry (Ian Kahn), Emory (Earl Grey) and Bernard (Don Gilet) grimly camp it up in Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band*

Home is the hero, home to Oldham

Odysseus Thump
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

Homer's hero zigzagged the length of the Med before belatedly reaching home where his life continued as though he had never been away. Richard Hope's modern Odysseus knows this is not how the world works nowadays. "Home is not a place. It's a time," he tells us midway through his journeyings, and for this reason no true homecoming will be possible.

Not that Hope's modern Penelope looks likely to welcome him there. On the landing outside her bedroom door the sturdy men of Failsworth wait till she makes her selection for the night. Slick young Tommy (James Weavor) fails to recognise his father but assures him his turn will come eventually.

This is a long way from Ancient Ithaca, but if it sounds as if we are being offered jolly pastiche the reality is powerfully different. In the course of an infinitely long weekend Hope's wanderer, here named Norman Nestor, reflects upon the changes of a lifetime: mills closed, landmarks gone, roads renamed. His Mediterranean is the network of streets and canals between Oldham and the moors, and as the hours and the rain swirl past him Norman engages with the living and re-encounters the dead.

Apart from a few seconds when the drinkers at the Ship & Anchor wonder what delays him, David Threlfall's Norman is on stage throughout the play's 100 minutes. Beer-belly bulging under his brown cardy, white-haired and bobble-hatted, this perturbed survivor shows us a man who has accepted that change is continuous but suddenly finds a vague knowledge turning into feeling. Threlfall's expressive voice conjures up a dismay that only once sets him against what Homer would have called the gods; mostly it is a finely modulated range of puzzlements and wry comment.

Jude Kelly's splendidly bold production is set on a great flight of steps, 20 of them, extending the breadth and height of the stage. Sections of it recede and advance, becoming football terrace, pub counter, church pews, canal bank and the everlasting streets. It is a design (by Peter Mumford) that keeps giving surprises but never overwhelms the human action.

Norman's encounters echo his predecessor's as he traipses from the football battlefield past sirens to the land of the dead, an amalgam of poignancy and larky comedy that sends Lesley Nicol, playing his carping mother, flapping up and down the steps like a mad bat. Nicol plays all the female roles in a strongly acted production — with ingenious, breezy use of chorus — from a very interesting new writer.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Thrilling tribute

INSTEAD of Sir Georg Solti conducting the opening concert of the **London Philharmonic Orchestra's** new International Series on the South Bank, the unchanged Festival Hall programme became dedicated to his memory. In his place, the New York-born **Joseph Swensen** took charge of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, for an audience who included the Duke of Kent and Princess Alexandra, as patrons of the LPO and its Choir respectively.

CONCERT

Before that, though, the next generation of orchestral musicians were first on display as the London Philharmonic Youth Orchestra under their new Israeli principal conductor, Ilan Volkov, who is 21. A slight and willowy figure, wholly composed in his control of the players, he painted the pictorial Prelude to Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* with engaging shades of instrumental colour in its musical depiction of a dawn scene on the River Moscow.

He was then joined by the burly Russian bass, Sergei Alexashkin, in the same composer's *Songs and Dances of Death*, previously announced for the programme and now acquiring a touch of grim irony.

Swensen's way with Beethoven after the interval was to drive it to the limits of collective expertise in an orchestra enlarged by woodwind in fours instead of twos, with a whiplash baton cutting off chords in a vehemently assertive first movement, a scherzo seemingly celebrating the life force in its headlong pace, and a slow movement not so much meditative as tense, as well as sensuous.

The LP Choir was a full-throated element in the exuberant finale. If there was a touch of glibness about the interpretation, it was undeniably exciting, as the audience's loud cheers acknowledged.

NOEL GOODWIN

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All at sea in Norfolk

I have seen some rum things in Norfolk in my time. But *Out of the Blue* — a community opera staged in the harbour and by the beach at Gorleston-on-Sea — must rank as the weirdest. It took two years of planning by its professional creators, harnessed vast resources, drew big crowds (3,000 nightly), was conceived on a D-Day scale ... and was cobblers from start to finish.

I stayed frozen to my seat — in a grandstand erected on the promenade — until the cast of 500 took their bows, and was practically the last person still watching. Community opera must have a future. No really, it must. But those who poured money into this (the big event of the Arts Council's Year of Opera and Musical Theatre,

OPERA

Out of the Blue

Gorleston

and sponsored by Anglia Railways) must learn swift lessons from *Out of the Blue* — or *Don't Have a Clue*, as the locals sitting around me cruelly but accurately renamed it.

On paper it looked like fun. No fewer than 32 ships and boats were involved, ranging from a big freight vessel to powerboats that zoomed round with flares. Tanks and ambulances raced across the beach. Searchlights criss-crossed the seafront. A helicopter swooped down, blowing sand in everybody's face. Roller-skaters, kite-fliers and sea scouts were roped in. Even the audience played a part: walking from harbour to beach as the plot progressed.

But writing the words "plot" and "progress" is ludicrous in this context. The story? Some nonsense about a Thing moving deep under the waves. Given a little love and understanding, the Thing could have brought immeasurable benefits to mankind. Instead, the nasty old "security forces" blow it up. End of plot. All this was mostly conveyed via loudspeaker relays of ridiculously improbable TV interviews, while people carrying model boats pranced round a paddling pool, and a man dressed as Admiral Nelson appeared to have a nervous breakdown. I know not why.

Then there was the music, a mess of synthesized clinks, excruciating choral passages and tortured tenor arias, all apparently designed to alienate the audience. And the final problem was that for long spells nothing happened. Of course, co-ordinating a land, sea and air opera cannot be easy. But nobody forced them to do it this way. Enough! At least it didn't rain.

RICHARD MORRISON



BILL COOPER

Together again: Irek Mukhamedov and Viviana Durante in Kenneth MacMillan's staging of *Romeo and Juliet*

Heart of the matter

Debra Craine sees the Royal Ballet launch its season at the Labatt's Apollo with *Romeo and Juliet*

This is a testing time for the Royal Ballet. Evicted — at least temporarily — from the cosy security of the Royal Opera House, the ballet has hit the road, starting its rounds of the London theatres that will house it during the two years of Covent Garden's closure. First stop is the Labatt's Apollo in Hammersmith, a theatre that would test any dance company's mettle.

At 3,485 seats, it is 50 per cent bigger than the Royal Opera House. So filling every single seat for a month-long season was never going to be a realistic proposition. Even so, ticket sales got off to a terrible start, and although they have now picked up dramatically (running at a much happier £43,000 a day), the company will lose money on its Hammersmith venture. What it has gained, however, is a new and different audience, first-timers enticed by the chance to see world-class dance for less than the price of a night out in the West End.

And world class it certainly was on opening night. You couldn't ask for better than Jonathan Cope and Sylvie Guillem; they really are the Royal Ballet's star partnership. Their dancing together is defined by physical brilliance and emotional daring.

> The Royal Ballet has gained a new and different audience

It is hard to convey the intimacy of drama in a venue so big that it dwarfs its performers. But Cope and Guillem managed to find their own privacy amid the public spectacle of MacMillan's well-upholstered narrative, a privacy that was vibrant with desire on Wednesday night. Cope's Romeo was slow to take shape, but when it did he was dynamite. Cocky yet boyish, young enough to be uncertain in matters of the heart but old enough to crave the heat of passion. Guillem was a flirtatious Juliet, fascinated by the promise of her first sexual adventure, and eager to seize the initiative. Their balcony pas de deux was wild with happiness: here was a young couple who loved being in love. And their disregard for consequence made their fate all the more tragic: the extremest of punishment for the simplest of pleasures.

On Saturday night Viviana Durante made her return to the Royal Ballet after a year-long sabbatical away from the world of dance. Juliet was always one of her best roles and here she confidently reclaimed it and her partnership with Irek Mukhamedov. Looking, and dancing, every bit as young as Shakespeare's heroine, Durante brought a giddy vulnerability to the part (although she still has that annoying habit of letting her face slip into a glum repose).

Mukhamedov's dancing was in reasonable shape on Saturday, but he wisely relied on his considerable charms as an actor to carry him. His Romeo was more of a rogue, more in command of the situation, and hence more to blame. Which is why the final act was Durante and Mukhamedov's finest hour. His urgency and despair, her stricken terror: the measure of their pain resonated around the cavernous auditorium.

The company as a whole danced robustly and well. William Trevitt's Mercutio and Michael Nunn's Benvolio struck up an effective camaraderie with Cope's Romeo; while Tetsuya Kumakawa's nimble Mercutio made a lively foil to Ashley Page's nasty Tybalt in the other cast.

The Royal Opera House Orchestra struck the only sour note. Despite the presence of the inestimable Viktor Fedotov in the pit, the orchestra was unsettled, some sections wandering off the track and others seeming to lose their nerve — well short of the crisp and focused playing Prokofiev deserves.

Posh stuff for the punters

POP

Sarah Brightman

Albert Hall

No more *Starship Trooper*. Sarah Brightman long ago moved on to higher things, thumbing her nose at cynics who regarded her as one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's more fanciful creations. Yet there are times when the kitsch quotient remains as high as it was in the days of Hot Gossip's silver space-suits.

What you get on the singer's current tour is a curious, and often winning, fusion of high and low-ish culture, aimed at the audience who buys its classical music in bite-size compilations. A snippet of Delibes gives way to a sliver of the *Songs of the Auvergne*, while the English National Orchestra, its members illuminated by a genteel light show, supplies intermissions in the form of Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and a crudely truncated arrangement of the slow movement from the *Concierto de Aranjuez*.

Amid the costume changes comes the middlebrow pop. Brightman's syrupy brand of crossover, as demonstrated on her new album *Timeless*, is a lot less subtle than, say, Dawn Upshaw's, with little of the whimsy or charisma. Brian May's lugubrious pomp-rock ballad *Who Wants to Live Forever* suits her only too well.

But it is difficult not to admire her determination to prove herself on so many fronts, from *West Side Story* to the Gypsy Kings' *Tu Quiere Volver*. Those who came to scoff at her voice will probably have come away disappointed.

I am not sure, though, that she did her former husband any real favours by including extracts from *The Phantom of the Opera* on the same programme as Canteloube and Puccini. As the lighting stepped up a couple of gears to accompany the show's Overture, Lloyd Webber's themes could not avoid sounding even flimsier than usual.

The composer himself was on hand to accompany Brightman — now perched atop the piano — through an anodyne preview from *Whistle Down the Wind*. At the close there was no escaping that ubiquitous Euro-hit of the year, *Time to Say Goodbye*. Brightman valiantly staying abreast of her vocal partner Andrea Bocelli.

CLIVE DAVIS

Four limbs on one superb body

JAZZ

Billed as "a unique improvised synthesis of Indian classical music and jazz", and designed as part of the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Indian independence, this Festival Hall concert — the London leg of a four-date tour — succeeded triumphantly on both counts.

The project's linchpin, tabla player extraordinaire **Zakir Hussain**, and two of his collaborators in the 1970s band Shakti, guitarist **John McLaughlin** and ghatam (clay pot) player **Vikku Vinayakram**, are of course old hands at such affairs, but whereas Shakti's music sometimes strayed uncomfortably close to virtuosic spectacle, on this occasion, in the main, the music itself was celebrated, rather than the players' skills.

Hussain set the tone in his opening announcement, describing the concert's introductory raga, involving the group's fourth member, bamboo flute player **Hariprasad Chaurasia**, as "the root we're all drawing upon as the basis for our musical interaction". From the mood-setting, dreamily meditative introduction to the vigorously percussive climax, it was the spirit of the music, rather than the details of its performance, that moved and exhilarated.

The point was emphasised by the subsequent trio piece, involving just the Shakti alumni. McLaughlin began it with a softly strummed guitar figure that slowly seduced the others into joining in increasingly vigorous interplay. Exciting and skilful as it was, though, it lacked the apparently effortless yet deeply affecting grace of the flute/tabla raga, resembling instead a jazz jam session, its emphasis slightly more on individual prowess rather than submission to the whole. The flute/guitar duo that followed the interval, too, although containing passages of extraordinary beauty, never became more than the sum of its admittedly considerable parts.

It was the concert's lengthy climax, involving all four musicians and a drone, that deservedly brought them a wildly enthusiastic standing ovation. Although structured so that each participant could demonstrate his skills in an extended solo passage — an opportunity Vinayakram in particular seized with both hands — the overall impression left by it was of four musicians fused into a single entity. One of McLaughlin's most celebrated album titles expressed the band's achievement perfectly: *Love, Devotion and Surrender*.

CHRIS PARKER

This week in THE TIMES



■ THEATRE

John Wood plays the poet Housman in Stoppard's new play at the National

OPENS: Wednesday

REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

On shaky ground in LA: Tommy Lee Jones in the disaster movie *Volcano*

RELEASED: Friday

REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

Rebecca Caine sings the title role in Opera North's new production of *Julietta*

OPENS: Friday, Leeds

REVIEW: Monday

PLUS: Bob Dylan, back in business with his best new album for a decade, kicks off a British tour in Bournemouth, Wednesday

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October 9, 1997–January 4, 1998 at the Hayward Gallery

An exclusive reader evening

Readers of The Times are invited to an exclusive private view of the first comprehensive exhibition to celebrate and explore the 20th-century still life.

The evening on November 6, 1997, from 6.30-8.30pm, includes a guided tour of the exhibition and an informal reception with wine in the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank, London.

The exhibition, created by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, brings together over 160 modern masterpieces from collections worldwide. Highlights include Marcel Duchamp's Bicycle Wheel, Man Ray's spike-covered iron, Gift, Matisse's Goldfish and Palette, Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup and saucer, Object, a white Lobster Telephone by Salvador Dali, René Magritte's The Interpretation of Dreams, Jasper Johns's Flag, and Brillo Boxes by Andy Warhol.

From Cézanne to Koons, this exhibition explores the ways in which exceptional artists and exceptional works have transformed the vision and meaning of the still life in the modern age.



Pablo Picasso Still Life with Pewter and Apples, 1919 (Detail) Musée Picasso, Paris © Succession Picasso/DACS 1997

Tickets: £12 (includes entrance to the exhibition, guided tour and drinks)
Call the Hayward Gallery box office on **0171-960 4242**. (Tickets must be purchased in advance. There is a £1 charge for telephone bookings for handling and postage).

Objects of Desire: the Modern Still Life is organised under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

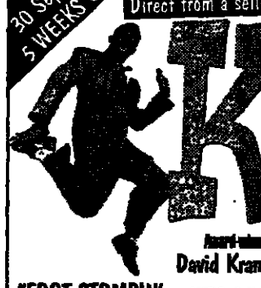
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Has Britain the heart for Blair?

New Labour demands an act of faith, says **Vernon Bogdanor**

Labour is enjoying its first victory conference since 1978 this week. But it is new Labour that is celebrating. Does the Blairite transformation of the party refute or confirm Irving Kristol's remark that the central theme of the 20th century is the death of socialism?

New Labour, Tony Blair has said, repudiates both the old Left and the new Right. The old Left rejected the market economy. It sought to put the clock back to pre-Thatcherite days. It failed to notice, however, that the changes which it labelled "Thatcherism" could equally well have been labelled "Mitterrandite", "Roger Douglasite" or "Keatingite". For the resurrection of the market occurred in all advanced democracies in the 1980s, whether these democracies were governed from the Right or from the Left.

The new Right failed, because it could not solve the problem of social cohesion. It believed that the solution to evils such as the destruction of the family and the growth of crime lay in returning to a land of lost content before the individualistic revolution of the 1960s — the revolution which Francis Fukuyama has called the Great Disruption. Thus, while the old Left sought to turn the *economic* clock back, the new Right sought to turn the *social* clock back. Both projects echo the complaint of the music lover who asks why composers no longer write in the style of Mozart.

> If he is to succeed, Blair will have to be every bit as resolute as was Thatcher

Intelligent Conservatives, however, offered something better than mere nostalgia. Douglas Hurd, for example, appreciated that the restoration of cohesion depended upon the "active citizen" to lead in the war against crime. It is hardly possible, however, to nurture active citizens within a political system whose *raison d'être* lies in passivity and deference.

Margaret Thatcher opened up the economic system through policies designed to increase ownership of housing, capital and other assets, while John Major sought to open up the public services to popular accountability. Neither did anything to open up the political system. Yet our political institutions, rather than promoting a culture of self-government, serve only the more limited purpose of allowing voters to choose and replace a political elite with the authority to make decisions on their behalf. We are thus exhorted to adopt the stance of citizens, while remaining, politically, in the condition of subjects.

Social cohesion — another name for fellowship, which lay at the heart of Labour's pioneers — is central to the new Labour project. Policies such as nationalisation, public control and state planning were *means* to secure this aim, but means which have now been discredited. To identify the means with the end and condemn new Labour for betrayal is nothing more than a logical confusion.

The originality of new Labour lies in the means it proposes to secure Labour's traditional aims. It seeks, not to transfer ownership or control, not to alter the *form* of organisations, but to alter their *ethos*. What Geoff Mulgan, the director of Demos, and now an adviser in Downing Street, has called missionary government seeks cultural rather than organisational change to achieve a change in values.

New Labour believes that society's problems do not stem primarily from the underfunding of public services, but from a profound cultural shift. In the past, Labour has relied on a pre-existing sense of community obligation. The 1945 Administration was lucky to inherit the spirit of wartime collectivism, but when James Callaghan sought to govern on the assumption that the trade unions had as much sense of the public interest as their wartime predecessors, he was greeted with the Winter of Discontent. Old Labour was brought down, not by militant collectivism, but by selfish individualism. "The trade unionist," Aneurin Bevan had presciently remarked in 1959, "votes at the polls against the consequences of his own anarchy." Labour's enemy now is not an economic system, but a philosophy, characterised by Melanie Phillips as "the culture of dutiless rights".

The trouble is that it is much easier to reform the economy than to alter values. Lord Holme, the Liberal Democrat peer, has called new Labour "a political Rorschach test where you project your hopes onto a blob of ink". So far, Labour has given only hints of how it proposes to renew local government, introduce a welfare-to-work programme intended to bring the excluded back into society and broaden reform of the welfare state. All these are, for the moment, merely plans on the drawing board. Nor can anyone be confident as to the casual connection between specific reforms and the larger project which involves a transformation of values, a change of heart.

For, in the end, Blair relies, just as the socialist pioneers did, on a change of heart — a phrase that leaves new Labour open to mockery from the old Left and new Right. Yet, as Orwell realised, without such a change, socialism cannot work. A mechanical socialism, relying solely on institutional or organisational change, terminates either in the gulag or the Winter of Discontent.

Noone should under-estimate the difficulty of the task facing new Labour. It is at least as daunting as that which confronted Margaret Thatcher in 1979: and it requires at least two, if not three terms, for the project to be brought to fruition. If it is to succeed, Mr Blair will have to prove himself every bit as resolute as Mrs Thatcher was, and every bit as socialist as the founding fathers of his party.

Vernon Bogdanor is Professor of Government at Oxford University

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Proposals for the reform of the Lords would do nothing for democracy — but much for party patronage

Take your seats for a House of horrors

William Rees-Mogg

The Labour Party proposals for the House of Lords will do more to strengthen party patronage than to modernise the constitution. New Labour has adopted a general policy of constitutional reform, some of it dangerously counter-productive. It includes the creation of a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly, negotiations for an all-Ireland settlement in Northern Ireland, the German electoral system for Scotland, Wales, Europe and possibly Westminster as well, partial independence for the Bank of England, a Bill of Rights, a mayor for London, perhaps also entry to the European single currency, which would transfer exchange and interest rate policy to the European Central Bank. There is also the threat of English regional assemblies, which would break up England.

All these changes will have an impact on the Westminster Parliament, including the House of Lords as the revising chamber. Although the Commons is democratically elected and has special responsibility for finance, the Lords has special responsibility for law. The Lord Chancellor sits on the woolsack and the Law Lords comprise the supreme court of the United Kingdom, though now subordinate to the European Court. The House of Lords still has some sovereign powers: it has the authority to overrule the Commons on any Bill to prolong the life of Parliament; it has power over its own procedures, and could, for instance, invite ministers from the Commons to address the Lords by a simple resolution. A reformed House of Lords might well want to do that.

The purpose of reform ought to be to make the House more effective in the new development of the British constitution. All that the Government is so far proposing is to take away the rights of hereditary peers.

No one who follows the proceedings of the Lords at all closely thinks this will improve the ability of the House to deal with the new constitution that Labour is planning. During the debates on the Referendum Bill for Scotland and Wales, hereditary peers made useful contributions, not least Earl Russell from the Liberal Democrat benches. Among Conservatives, the Scottish hereditary women peers were particularly good; they made points which might otherwise have been missed. When it comes to devolution, abolishing the Scottish and Welsh hereditary peers, without satisfactory replacements, would merely reduce the knowledge of Scotland and Wales available to Parliament.

The Scottish and Welsh parliaments will give the United Kingdom a quasi-federal structure. The representation of Scotland and Wales in the revising chamber will need to be strengthened; in most federal systems, as in the United States Senate, the upper house has a function of representing the people of the subordinate states. Scottish and Welsh peers should be nominated by the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly, rather than being nominated by the Prime Minister. If England is to be properly represented, more English peers should have local roots, particularly if hereditary peers, many of whom have strong local connections, are to be abolished. The life peers are, on average, too metropolitan to represent England as a whole.

The House of Commons has been handing away its own powers, to the Scottish parliament, to the Welsh assembly, to the Bank of England, to Europe. In all of these areas, the Lords needs to be strengthened, both in terms of experience and knowledge. In particular, the Lords needs to be better able to scrutinise European law and policy.

It is probably also desirable that the House of Lords should become more democratic, as the United Kingdom is moving away from democracy. There is no sign that the Government is concerned about the democratic deficit of Europe, though the government of Europe, its Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Court and the central bank are all nominated, rather than elected. Even the decision to adopt a proportional system for British elections to the European Parliament will not strengthen democracy; all list systems add to the power of party bosses.

All the opposition parties in Britain should insist that a partial reform of the Lords is not good enough; merely abolishing the hereditary peers falls far short of what is required. Indeed, by removing the hereditary peers who do make a contribution, it will make the House less well informed than it is now. William Hague is reported as having decided, without consulting his Shadow Cabinet or the Conservative peers, to accept the abolition of the rights of hereditary peers, and to abstain on the Bill when it comes to the House of Commons.

That might be a reasonable price to pay for a fullscale reform of the Upper House. As an opening move, it surrenders his most powerful weapon, the ability to tie up parliamentary time if he is not offered serious reforms. It also implicitely accepts the proposal for a purely nominated House.

The present House of Lords is not democratic: that cannot be said too often. It might have more authority if it had an elected element. That is true, though it creates jealousy in the House of Commons. Yet nomination of life peers by present or past Prime Ministers is not more democratic than the inheritance by hereditary peers. Life and hereditary peers have precisely the same democratic credentials: none.

Those life peers who choose to sit on the party benches do so as mere political nominees, which is objectionable in itself. The cross-benchers are no more democratic than the whip peers, but they are certainly more independent. The Law Lords, who value their independence, rightly sit on the cross-benches. Other non-political peers might be better advised to follow their example.

An entirely nominated House of Lords is a very ugly solution. It would certainly be too old — each generation has its own characteristic defects. It would certainly be too narrow; most people become life peers by following a limited range of professional careers which bring them to the attention of the Prime Minister of the day. It would be too cowardly, though the hereditary peers have not been politically courageous, as over Maastricht. It would not enjoy the authority of an elected basis. It would increase the power of the party bosses; the House would be half full of people who had eaten Peter Mandelson's apple. it would be a horror house of patronage.

In this, as in the other proposed constitutional reforms, there exists an opportunity for Mr Hague to develop a serious Conservative response. He should reserve his position until he has consulted people of appropriate experience, including his own colleagues in the Lords. He does not have to take their advice, but he has to know why he is rejecting it. His slogan should be: no reform without improvement. Obviously, reform of the Lords needs to be part of the other constitutional changes; it should not be isolated from them.

The danger is that the Labour constitutional changes, largely borrowed from the Liberal Democrats, will result in electoral reform, semi-permanent Lib-Lab coalition in the United Kingdom, Wales and Scotland, and further transfer of powers to non-democratic European institutions. The United Kingdom will be submerged in a bureaucratic European super-state.

An unreformed, but wholly nominated, House of Lords would be a mere patronage appendix tacked onto the intestines of this non-democratic European constitution.

This is all too good to last

Blair must take tough decisions before his halo slips, says **Peter Riddell**



Tony Blair is far too popular for his own, or for his Government's, long-term good. His 93 per cent approval rating in Labour's private polls is not only unsustainable but it is also a trap. It may discourage Mr Blair from the risky and, potentially, unpopular decisions that he should now take. The myth of Blair the Superman may undermine Blairism.

Mr Blair will, of course, warn against complacency and stress the "hard" choices of government in his conference speech tomorrow. But his advisers have carefully crafted the image of the all-embracing national leader with no enemies. In the cause of "modernisation", the hand is reached out to everyone — the Prince of Wales, leading businessmen, the Liberal Democrats, media moguls. It is both chic and caring.

The Labour Party has itself become a prop rather than an engine of Blairism. The party is mainly a campaigning organisation under his centralised control. The *Partnership in Power* proposals likely to be approved today mean that this is the last conference where big unions and fractious constituency activists can pass hastily cobbled together motions challenging a Labour Government. In 1978, the last conference when Labour was in power, James Callaghan faced several defeats on economic policy.

Mr Blair has developed an increasingly plebiscitory style, appealing over the head of activists to party members. That can work for a time, as de Gaulle showed. But, in a parliamentary system, parties also have to be healthy, as the Tories have discovered to their cost. Peter Mandelson argued in a fringe speech last night that modernisation of the Labour Party had to continue. He said Scottish devolution and an elected mayor for London should help to change the party's culture, and make it more open. But what Mr Blair has yet to show is that Labour as a whole, including its activists, is "new". It is no good just relying on a committed cadre and the mass membership.

A parallel danger is that sustaining the leader's popularity becomes an end in itself. This is reinforced by the obsession with short-term media management which the Blair team has transferred from Opposition to Government. The priority becomes not to offend key "swing" voters. On this view, shared by some of Mr Blair's advisers, the Major administration lost by alienating such groups and appearing incompetent — so what matters is competence in managing government and in public relations.

The alternative, almost Thatcherite, view is that a strong political position is there to be used. The way to remain in office is by taking initially unpopular decisions and confronting enemies in order to reshape the political landscape to your long-term advantage.

The Government has shown flair and a generally sure touch in its first five months. Mr Blair has symbolised and capitalised on the widespread desire for a fresh start, and has been bold over breaking the stalemate in Northern Ireland and in his Cabinet committee with the Liberal Democrats. Gordon Brown has moved decisively by making the Bank of England responsible for setting interest rates and over City regulation, while his welfare-to-work package is a substantial initiative.

David Blunkett's proposal for tuition fees for university students is the most radical example of Blairism in action. It is fully justified if the costs of mass higher education are to be afforded. But it has been the most unpopular Government decision so far, providing the biggest challenge to the leadership this week.

This criticism has worried the "protect your popularity" group around Mr Blair. It reinforces the doubts about challenging universal benefits, such as child benefit. As it is, the Government debate over welfare reform is a mess, with too many ministers and task-forces involved. Mr Blair has yet to address these issues fully. The same is true of the NHS, where the scrapping of the internal market will make little difference to what Frank Dobson yesterday called the "juggernaut" of rising waiting lists. The Government will have to decide whether to have a special NHS tax (breaking the spirit, if not the letter, of its pledge on income tax), to raise charges and/or to encourage more private insurance.

These decisions will be unpopular with someone, but are necessary if Mr Blair is to achieve his aim of increasing spending on education at the expense of welfare.

Europe and the single currency are the trickiest questions. Speculation is running far ahead of ministerial decisions. The new development is the acceptance by ministers that a policy statement cannot be infinitely postponed, since it is now clear that the single currency will probably go ahead on time in January 1999. An announcement has to be made about the British opt-out by the end of this year. There is virtually no chance of Britain being part of the first wave and the question is how far the Government should say it supports entry at a later date and whether a referendum might be held in June 1999, to coincide with the European elections.

My hunch is that, provided a single currency has been launched successfully, Mr Blair could win such a referendum with business and cross-party support. But this would risk party divisions and the alienation of recent media supporters. Which paper has recently run most leaders on monetary union? No, not *The Financial Times*, but *The Sun* (all ferociously against entry). Mr Blair is cautious about such a fight. It would fracture his "all things to all people" coalition. However, there are big potential prizes, both for Britain in Europe and for Mr Blair.

Mr Blair is now in a far stronger position than any previous Labour Prime Minister. Indeed, he often appears above the arguments within his Government and party. But he is also a politician. He will not always be popular. So he should use his current opportunity to the full.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Bacon sliced

AMID much recrimination, scenes of sexual extravagance depicting the homosexual awakening of the late artist Francis Bacon have been cut from the forthcoming film of his life story, *Love is the Devil*.

Friends of Bacon are furious that the celluloid portrait, starring Sir Derek Jacobi, has been sanitised to satisfy the sensibilities of the British Film Institute. The key sequence, based on an incident in Daniel Farson's biography, *The Gilded Gutter Life of Francis Bacon*, shows Bacon's father walking in on the teenage artist dressing in his mother's clothes. His father then orders stable lads to horse whip the boy and the participants retire to a stable from where bewildering noises are heard.


Bacon: whipping boy

All a bit fruity for the BFI and its co-backers, the BBC, both of which are concerned that the young Bacon is played by a 14-year-old schoolboy. "It is extremely louche and irrelevant to the story," says a spokesman. "I can think of no reason whatsoever to include it."

Farson and his friends are incandescent. "It formed an essential part of Bacon's character," says Farson. "I am very distressed that it has been cut." Other survivors from Bacon's circle are less reserved. "It's outrageous," says the art dealer, James Birch. "The BBC is being quite hysterical."

● *TIRELESSLY campaigning against nuclear power stations has done little to stem the Liberal Democrats' largesse towards the nuclear fuel industry. At the party conference in Eastbourne last week, the BNFL was bemused to be presented with a silver platter and a bottle of champagne by Paddy Ashdown. The reason? "They had the best-presented stand."*

In the bin

DEMOCRACY continues to elude the Conservative Party, which is busily sifting through the voting papers for its leader's "back me or sack me" ballot. "All the votes are sent to the area party chairmen for counting," explains a Central Office strategist. "We can rely on them to throw the 'no' votes in the bin." Small wonder the party rejected the Electoral Reform Society's kind offer to oversee the ballot.

● *WITH hotel rooms as rare as a Kir Royale in a Libyan mosque, Labour's conference delegates are resorting to desperate tactics. Christine McCafferty, a new Labour MP, is to pitch her caravan in a nearby field and spend the week under the Brighton stars.*

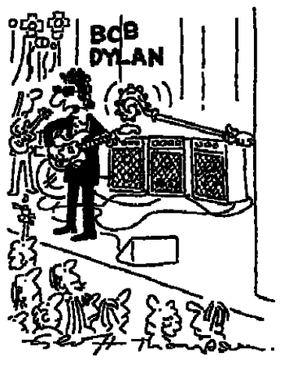
Sloe going

THERE will be no plum pudding and sloe gin for Raine Spencer this year: she has decided to spend Christmas Day working at the checkout of Harrods at Heathrow, Terminal 4. This will not be the first time that the countess has mucked in at the airport branch of Mohamed Al Fayed's little shop. She donned her pinny, serving customers and comforting staff, after the death of her stepdaughter, Diana, Princess of Wales. "I am the daughter of a printer and I know how to get down to work," she says. Michael Cole, the silky voice of Mr Al Fayed, is as ever on hand to confirm her diligence. "She is utterly adored by the staff," he warbles.

Blue funk

INTERLOPING at the Labour conference in Brighton is the ebullient figure of Steve Norris, the former Conservative Transport Minister. Having embarked on a crusade to become Lord Mayor of London, Norris wants to shed his Tory image and be seen breaking bread with new Labour types.

News of his attendance has enraged his former Conservative colleagues, who urged him to support their own beleaguered leader at Blackpool next week. "He knows he's got no chance of being elected mayor as a Tory so he's going to Brighton instead," says a friend. "He'll be meeting all the big new Labour boys — anything could happen." The opportunist will not be welcomed by all. "Disillusioned Tories can't just swan in and join our camp," says a Labour hard-liner. "He'll have to convince us it's a genuine conversion."



Who he?

EVIDENCE of the plummeting prestige of the nation's beefiest egos comes with the latest edition of *Who's Really Who*, a list of the 400 most significant people in Britain. Gone are the likes of the *Literary Review* editor, Auberon Waugh, the Radio 4 presenter, Anna Ford, and — rather cheaply — the defeated Prime Minister, John Major.

In their place come the jilted rugby wife, Julia Carling, the Endsleigh League model Iris Palmer and the rather pointless Tara Palmer-Tomkinson.

"Bron Waugh used to be included because he was exciting," explains the author, Richard Compton Miller. "But now he is just an old fart." And as for Ford and Major? "They're just too dull." Quite unlike Mr Compton Miller.

Past It

WHEN she has shopped, gossiped and posed her way through London Fashion Week, veteran Past It Girl Tamara Beckwith will stride towards less perfumed pursuits. She has set her heart on a new film role, that of an East End gangster's lesbian moll. "It is just the part for me," she gushes. Wouldn't something in the Merchant Ivory line be more suitable? "Oh no, I haven't got the cleavage."

JASPER GERARD


Beckwith: going, going

BEWARE EMU AMBUSH

Tony Blair should deny any plan to bounce the UK into EMU

The members of the Government who are trying to bounce Tony Blair into making a premature decision on Britain's membership of European monetary union are playing with fire. As Gordon Brown puts the finishing touches on his Party conference speech, he should reflect on Nigel Lawson's campaign to force Margaret Thatcher into the European exchange-rate mechanism, a campaign that relied heavily on media manipulation. The ultimate consequence was disaster: for the country, the Government and, not least, for an "unassailable" Chancellor.

The story in Friday's *Financial Times* that the Government was about to announce an early referendum on monetary union or even to set a specific deadline for Britain to join was designed to manipulate financial markets and soften up public opinion for a policy more favourable to EMU. In both these objectives the spin-doctors were spectacularly successful, at least for a day or two — though at the cost of risking a financial and political backlash once the public, the media and the markets recover from the surprise of this ambush. But the Government proponents of EMU were trying to do something even more dangerous than manipulating the media and the markets. They were trying to force the Prime Minister onto an unstoppable escalator leading ineluctably to monetary union.

By encouraging the belief that the Cabinet is on the point of setting an EMU deadline, the Labour spin-doctors hope to shift the terms of both economic and political debate and to create financial conditions in which any hint of waning Euro-enthusiasm appears risky. Instead of fundamental economic questions about the costs and benefits of abandoning monetary sovereignty, the pro-EMU camp, wants discussion to shift to such technical issues as interest differentials and asynchronous business cycles. Instead of arguing about the political principles of joining EMU, they want the Cabinet to focus on tactical questions — whether a referendum can be sprung on the public before Mr Blair's honeymoon is over and what it would do to dissension in the Tory ranks. By minimising the difficulties of pushing Britain into EMU, the proponents of early membership are also sending a signal to their colleagues in Bonn, Paris and Brussels. The Prime Minister is under pressure from Europe to make a policy statement that is broadly supportive of EMU before Britain assumes the EU presidency. Until last week, a mere statement that Britain wishes EMU success and would think about joining it some time in the future might have been sufficient. But now Mr Blair will be expected to make a stronger commitment to show "sincerity".

By promoting the market belief that Britain would join EMU at a low exchange rate, the spin doctors have caused a sharp fall in sterling, boosting profits for British exporters. To keep sterling moving in the "right" direction (which in this context means downwards) will now require additional doses of EMU-euphoria.

Such were precisely the salami-slicing tactics used by Nigel Lawson and Sir Geoffrey Howe to force Mrs Thatcher into the European exchange-rate mechanism. If Mr Blair allows such tactics to block his room for manoeuvre, he will find himself forced towards decisions which commit him to the abolition of the pound — perhaps sooner than he thinks or intends. Such a decision would not only end Mr Blair's honeymoon with the British people and forfeit the trust he has won from many patriotic former Tories. A referendum would destroy Mr Blair's political project if he lost, and would jeopardise it even if he won, since he would then have to take personal responsibility, like John Major, for the consequences of economic decisions made in Frankfurt.

Last week's events have brought forward the battle over Britain's relationship with EMU and raised the stakes. The Prime Minister must remain in command of events, instead of becoming their victim. He must deny any plans to hold an early referendum or to set a deadline for EMU. Still better, he could force Mr Brown to dissociate himself from such proposals in his speech today.

THE GIANT WAKES

Yeltsin must discipline Russia's cowboy economy carefully

Boris Yeltsin's calls for greater state control over the Russian economy do not mean that Marxism is baying at Russia's gate. They show that the Russian economy, now surging ahead on a tide of foreign investment, is entering the long boom predicted after the death of communism. The regulation that the President proposes is not a return to the old stultifying ways; it is the reining in of a cowboy, crony capitalism that is threatening to fulfil the Leninist caricature of growing inequality, high level corruption, monopolistic high prices and the enrichment of the few at the expense of the weak and the old.

All this is not a sign of failure: it is an indication that Russia, like America a century ago, is engaged in a frenzied race to get rich. That race, as Western societies have learnt, must be run within the rules of the market and society. What Russia needs now is financial transparency, fair competition, a clear legal framework and, above all, a tax system that collects money efficiently and spends it fairly.

Anatoli Chubais and Boris Nemtfov, the energetic deputy prime ministers directing Russia's integration into the world economy, know that reforms will curb the present Wild West free-for-all. Their main challenge is the power of the industrial bosses. Russia is now run not by an ideological gerontocracy but by a flashy plutocracy.

In a vigorous crusade to bring law to the market jungle, Mr Yeltsin said last week that more than 2,500 state officials were under investigation for corruption; eight embezzlement cases had been launched against generals and admirals; prosecutors, customs officials and even Duma deputies were also involved. The interior ministry has a list of 50 sitting members with criminal pasts, and Mr Yeltsin accused them of using parliamentary immunity for illegal activities.

Corruption is as old as Muscovy. Most Russians learn to live with it, and business flourishes in conditions Westerners would find impossible. The difference now is that far larger sums are involved; and Russia is fastbecoming part of the global economy. Foreign investment has trebled to $6 billion so far this year from $2 billion for all of 1996. Last month the gross domestic product rose for the sixth successive month to stand 0.7 percent higher than a year ago. Russia has just joined the Paris Club of creditor states, it hopes next year to enter The World Trade Organisation and next Monday Donald Johnston, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, arrives in Moscow to discuss eventual Russian membership.

The Government knows that until the 1997 and 1998 budgets are approved, a draft taxcode pushed through a recalcitrant Duma and social security spending brought into line with what Russia can afford, the country will see little benefit from the surge from foreign investment. A start has been made and Mr Yeltsin's determination has taken many by surprise. Inflation is down to about 15 per cent and pension arrears have been paid off. Privatisation continues apace. Now the President must stop the stirring giant from causing damage as it awakes.

EAGLES AND OTHER BIRDIES

Television makes golf a mass sport rather than an exclusive one

By the end the victory of Europe's golfers over the Americans in the Ryder Cup came as no surprise. Their lead of 5 points after the foursomes and four-balls proved just too much even for Tiger Woods and other big beasts of the golfing jungle to claw back. As usual, the Americans came out with a roar in the singles at which they excel, and came within a point of saving the match.

Nevertheless, there were surprises about the triumph. One was the way that the rain even in Spain can turn a green into a drain. Then there is the spectacle of millionaires playing for no purse, and showing unaccustomed emotion and nerves at the ice-cold game from which they earn their living. The Ryder Cup is the only event at which Europeans cheer for Europe as a whole, with Britons supporting Spaniards and Germans, while more than just the ranks of Tuscany sang for Costantino Rocca, the Italian who looks more like a pasta chef than an athlete.

But since all Europe started to play together against the Americans in 1979, the most surprising result of the Ryder Cup is the way it has turned golf into a mass sporting event, like the Cup Final or the Grand National. People who could not tell the difference between a dormy and a bogey were glued to their television sets yesterday.

For at golf the couch spectator usually sees more of the game than the watcher with the periscope and umbrella. On the course the spectator is distracted that he is in the wrong place by distant cheers. On television, background of lakes and fountains, cork trees and the Mediterranean make a more varied prospect than the grandest amphitheatre.

In the commentators' truism, no game is lost and won until it is over. But matchplay golf can fluctuate from triumph to disaster faster than any other game. It did so yesterday, with a remarkable number of shots from the fairway hitting pins or backspinning down the glassy greens. For a week every two years the best golfers in the world give up their office job of stroke play and take to matchplay like weekend golfers. Golf is the one mass spectator sport at which a huge crowd still falls eerily silent at crisis. As yesterday showed, more than in any other sport little-known underdogs can still beat world-famous favourites.

For more than other sport, golf combines high discipline and skill with emotion, as well as the luck of the green and the rough. In his final order of battle commands to his troops, Seve Ballesteros told them to enjoy themselves, relax and not to look at the scoreboard. And of course, Britain's favourite Spaniard found it quite impossible to follow his own advice. So in solid rain, on the last hole of the last match on course, by the narrowest of margins, Colin Montgomerie did the full Monty to win the Ryder Cup. As he did so, he showed how this royal and ancient game has added to the mass entertainment of nations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Politics and power of devolution

From Professor J. R. Vincent

Sir, The spin now being put on Welsh devolution is that the Welsh assembly is an exciting pluralist experiment based on proportional representation and designed to allow Welshmen of different outlooks to combine for the common good of Wales.

In fact, as the White Paper on Welsh devolution shows, we are more likely to reinvent Stormont — a kind of dreary one-party statelet which goes out of its way to exclude Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats from any share in the fruits of a victory that was largely theirs.

The White Paper envisages that the new Wales will be run principally by a Welsh leader and the executive committee of the Welsh assembly, the latter amounting to a Cabinet for Wales. The Welsh leader and Cabinet will be what matters, not the assembly. The Welsh Devolution Bill will permit the Welsh Cabinet, which will meet *in camera*, to be drawn from members of a single party: one can guess which.

Under the Cabinet come the subject committees of the assembly, also chosen on a party basis, whose elected leaders "will usually be a member of the majority party in the assembly".

In fact, is this not Stormont reborn? The pluralist trimmings and proportional representation are just so much sand to throw in English eyes. The colonial power likes to feel good about its colonial constitutions. In Welsh reality, it will be Cabinets that matter and assemblies that are froth. This is in essence a proposal to give Wales a one-party Cabinet (para 4.15) and one-party directed subject committees (para 4.19) through which a party overlord directs great areas of Welsh life.

In passing, one can but note the insensitive assumption that independent candidates will have no part to play, since the new Wales will belong either to all existing parties, or to one party. Surely the electorate has some say in this matter?

Yours truly,
JOHN VINCENT,
8 Charlotte Street South, Bristol.
September 24.

From Professor Stephen Haseler, Chairman of Republic

Sir, It now appears that the British Government is on the brink of taking the plunge and submerging the pound into the euro in the year 2000. This decision will be, without doubt, the most important political event since the war.

Its constitutional implications are, quite simply, enormous, and as far as we British are concerned, unprecedented. Once the bulk of economic decision-making has been passed — openly and democratically — from national politicians in Whitehall and Westminster to collective decision-making in Frankfurt and Brussels then, to all intents and purposes, we British will be living in a new country called Europe.

And we will need a new constitution to suit this new political and economic environment. Whig tinkering, the great fall back of traditionalists in trouble, will no longer be good enough. All the institutions of our "ancien régime", of the old centralised nation-state known as the UK, will need not just reform but overhaul, even maybe discarding.

As Europe takes hold, and power in the British Isles decentralises away from Westminster — upwards towards Brussels and Frankfurt, downwards to nations and English regions — we will no longer have need of institutions which served an imperial past: instead, each institution will need to be measured in terms of whether it suits the English, Scots and Welsh in the new federal/confederal system emerging in Europe. And this will apply to the overstaffed Westminster Parliament — which will have less and less to do — as much as it does to the Monarchy, the House of Lords and the Established Church.

Sincerely yours,
S. HASELER,
Chairman,
Republic,
PO Box 2698, London W14 9ZT.
September 26.

Crystal Palace plans

From Mr Rupert Kempley

Sir, I was disappointed by the short-sighted view of the ambitious plan for a modern Crystal Palace, to be sited in an existing park (letters, September 13); but pleased Mr Eric Kings (letter, September 20) thought the proposal "the best I have seen in recent years".

The value of a park does not lie in a simple calculation of its green acreage but in its ability to uplift our spirits. Clearly a balance has to be struck: a building sited in a park to ginger up our experience of it and make the park more memorable must be in proportion to the space in which it sits and must not distort the spirit of the place.

The Crystal Palace proposals meet these criteria and, in addition, may set a useful example for sensitive development of many other currently languishing British parks which require an attractive feature to bring them back to life.

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT KEMPLEY,
Landcare Land Services,
The Old Vicarage,
106 The Avenue,
Harewood, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Addressing dyslexia in our schools

From Mrs Sheila M. Oglethorpe

Sir, The history of Pamela Phelps, the 23-year-old dyslexic who has been awarded £45,000 damages against the local authority which allowed her to leave school with a reading age of seven (report, September 24), is all too familiar. In some quarters dyslexia is still only grudgingly recognised and the amount of help given to dyslexic pupils is occasionally no more than derisory.

The telltale symptoms of dyslexia should be recognisable and provided for sympathetically, not only by all teachers in primary schools but also by teachers of all subjects, including the performing arts, at secondary schools. There is a wealth of talent among dyslexics which is not being exploited.

Provision is made for dyslexics by boards examining "academic" subjects and by some enlightened boards examining in the arts — notably the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music; but too often the student is rejected by teachers before ever the question of an examination comes up.

Little is known among teachers of non-academic subjects about the effects which dyslexia may have when applied to their own particular discipline. Nor has anything of any real significance been done to correct the widespread belief that dyslexia is only relevant to literacy problems.

Miss Phelps has demonstrated one of the enviable traits of many a dyslexic who is convinced of their own worth: dogged persistence. Good luck to her.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA M. OGLETHORPE
(Author, *Instrumental Music for Dyslexics*, Whurr Publishers, 1996),
Hazelacre, Slab Lane,
Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
September 24.

From Mrs Penny Rose

Sir, Contrary to the second of your reports on dyslexia today, Britain has far more than 2,000 practitioners trained to teach dyslexic pupils. There are many postgraduate courses in dyslexia in universities and colleges throughout the country, in addition to those offered at the Dyslexia Institute.

Each year I train approximately 60 teachers and classroom assistants on Royal Society of Arts (RSA) diploma and certificate teacher and assistant courses, and I work in just one centre of a network of over 30 such courses in the country.

Neither does your report do justice to the amount of public money spent on in-service training by LEAs and higher and further education funding councils, or to the phenomenal effort which professionals put into these courses, often in their own time.

The long-term aim of the RSA courses is to train a special needs co-ordinator, class/subject teacher, peripatetic support teacher and classroom assistant in every school, to provide early diagnosis and remediation of dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties.

The snag is that many of these highly trained and very conscientious, but often despairing, teachers have to squeeze their specialist teaching into dinner hours and breaks because of pressures for all pupils to attend National Curriculum-based lessons, and because the teacher has additional class or subject duties. A child who really needs daily tuition to alleviate dyslexia will often only receive one session per week.

Money spent to give more time for specialist tuition in the early years would ease the suffering and ultimately save on huge compensation claims. A daily literacy hour and summer schools will help, but these measures are only the tip of the iceberg. The expertise already exists in many of our schools, bursting to be released from the frustration of knowing that the problem exists but that time for help is limited.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY ROSE
(Lecturer in continuing professional development),
Amersham and Wycombe College,
Stanley Hill,
Amersham, Buckinghamshire.
September 24.

Major's legacy

From Professor the Lord McColl of Dulwich

Sir, Some years ago I advised John Major to repudiate inaccuracies in the press. As I recall, he shrugged his shoulders and muttered "that would be a full-time job and who believes what the press says anyway". I still think it is worthwhile to do so.

John Major's ambition in 1992 was not, as Michael Gove states in his article today ("Is Britain in a class of its own?"), that "sterling would shortly replace the mark as the ERM's benchmark currency". He did believe the German economic policy was unsustainable in the medium term and that if the UK pursued a rigorous anti-inflationary stance — as he was determined it would — sterling could in time become a stronger currency than the Deutschmark.

It is now possible to see that Mr Major may have been right, since he handed over a strong currency and an economy in excellent health to his successor. That is not the current position in Germany.

I also regard Mr Gove's belief that Mr Major's lottery is "an exquisite device for exploiting the limitations of the poor and subsidising the amusements of the rich" as ridiculous (are charities rich? Or village cricket and football teams? Or schools?) and his comments on a classless society as ludicrous. The forelock-touching days in which people were dependent upon their background are surely gone. I sincerely hope so, as did John Major.

Of course John Major can be criticised, but it should be fairly. And perhaps, occasionally, people might recall he left the most sparkling economy for generations to his successors. Or is that not worthy of comment?

Yours faithfully,
McCOLL
(Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1994-97),
House of Lords.
September 24.

RA exhibition

From Mrs E. Bellm

Sir, Great objection has been voiced against the showing of the Myra Hindley picture at the Royal Academy's exhibition (letters, September 18 and 19). However, very little attention is being paid to the grossly indecent picture of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, surrounded by pictures of female genitalia. How can we as a Christian society allow this depravity to be shown? Would the Royal Academy allow a picture of Mohammed, the prophet, in these surroundings? Most certainly not. Quite rightly, they would be cautious not to offend.

We must remember that Mary, the Blessed Virgin, is venerated by Anglicans and Catholics alike, and that such a depiction is hugely insulting. We cannot and should not stand back lamely and allow this picture to be exhibited.

Yours faithfully,
EVA BELLM,
The Priory, Binfield, Berkshire.

From Mr Neil Kenyon

Sir, I am completely dumbfounded by Mr Nicky Hamlyn's allegation (letter, September 18) that Simon Jenkins, in his article of September 13 ("The art of sensationalism"), had misrepresented "a number of artworks, both past and present".

I can't tell you how relieved I am to learn that the "pile of dirty baby's nappies" at an ICA exhibition in the 1970s was, in fact, not a pile at all. To further learn that "the nappies were exhibited in cases, along with other material" completely changed my perception!

I suspect Mr Hamlyn's view that the work examines the process of weaning a child "from a psychoanalytic perspective and the nappies traced the visual changes in faeces" says it all.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL KENYON,
202 Braithwell Road,
Ravenfield,
Rotherham, South Yorkshire.
September 18.

Falls from power

From Mr Peter Stroud

Sir, Why ask Kenneth Baker to review a book critical of Margaret Thatcher? All we glean from his review of Roy Hattersley's *Fifty Years On* (Books, September 18) is how much he admires her; and most of us knew that already.

Incidentally, Mr Baker is quite capable of being "superficial and slipshod". Who are the two Prime Ministers "brought down" by union power? (How that phrase has entered into the folklore of journalists.) I cannot think of any who were so "brought down". He is presumably referring to Heath and Callaghan; but the former fell from power through losing a general election and the latter led a minority government which owed its demise to the devolution problem.

Yours faithfully,
PETER STROUD,
4 Antonine Gate,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
September 19.

Cross purposes

From Senor Alfonso Torrents dels Prats

Sir, The possibility that the Red Cross may abandon its traditional, apolitical, non-religious symbol (report, September 22) fills me with concern.

Will pharmacies all over Europe have to follow suit and replace the green cross?

Will the well-known American medical insurer Blue Cross have to change its logo?

Will Israel ban the sale of *croissants*?

Yours sincerely,
ALFONSO TORRENTS dels PRATS,
162 Coleherne Court,
Old Brompton Road, SW5.
September 22.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Prince Imperial's death in Zulu War

From the Chairman of the Anglo-Zulu War Research Society

Sir, As an adviser on the project to film the life of the Prince Imperial, son of Emperor Napoleon III of France, I read with interest your report ("Last Napoleon reigns on screen", September 26), and in particular your account of the Prince's death in the Zulu War on June 1, 1879.

The Prince Imperial fell from his mount, Percy, after the leather on his saddle wallet gave way, sending him tumbling to the ground; it was only after a chase on foot that he received the assegai in the thigh. Surgeon-Major F. B. Scott's examination of his body revealed 17 assegai wounds in total.

Apart from the Prince, who fired two shots from his revolver, Trooper George Rogers was the only member of the escort to fire a shot before he was killed. Trooper William Abel was shot in the back while attempting to escape the ambush. Neither was awarded the posthumous VCs you report.

On its return to Britain, the Prince Imperial's body was initially placed alongside his father's at Saint Mary's Church, Chislehurst, Kent, close to the family's home at Camden Place, Chislehurst. It was here that the exiled Emperor Napoleon III had died in 1873. Their bodies would not be interred in Saint Michael's, Farnborough, until 1888, where the Empress Eugenie would join them in 1920.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN YOUNG,
Chairman,
Anglo-Zulu War Research Society,
22 Ash Groves, Lower Sheering,
Nr Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.
September 26.

Sparkling Hope

From Dr William Gillin

Sir, The new vault for the Hope diamond in Washington's National Museum of Natural History was indeed built by Diebold Inc as you report (September 20), but it "sparkles, dazzles and glows a deep blue" thanks to a new lighting system designed and built by British industry and British academia.

Dark blue and surrounded by white diamonds, the Hope needed a new approach to gem lighting to bring out its sparkle. This was achieved by a small company, Absolute Action Ltd of Wandsworth, working with Professor David Dunstan, a physicist from Queen Mary and Westfield College.

Politicians and headlines like to question the relevance of academia to UK plc; many companies might be surprised by the enthusiastic problem-solving expertise available to them at their local university physics department.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM GILLIN,
27 Denzil Road, Guildford, Surrey.
w.gillin@qmw.ac.uk
September 20.

From Mrs Margaret Fryer

Sir, You report that the Hope diamond was sold to Louis XIV in 1668 and that he "died soon afterwards, launching the myth that the diamond brought tragedy to its owners".

According to my Larousse encyclopaedia, Louis XIV died in 1715. I suppose it depends what you mean by "soon".

Yours,
M. FRYER,
20 Terncliff,
Covingham, Swindon, Wiltshire.
September 20.

Crossed lines

From Mr Roger Vincent

Sir, The steep rise in the number of complaints about train services (letter, September 23) is quite clearly not a reflection of performance. In the context of the nationalised BR dinosaur, the complaints system was virtually irrelevant, even if not as bad as the information system, the cleanliness and the punctuality.

It seems to me that all these are improving immeasurably, thereby regenerating both main lines and branch lines. For instance, in this area we now see the West Somerset Railway (a tourist/volunteer enterprise, long ago axed by BR) actually in use for freight, and rumours of it being reconnected to the national passenger network.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER VINCENT,
2 Parkside,
West Bagborough, Somerset.
September 23.

Shopping saints

From Prebendary J. B. Gaskell

Sir, The Rector of Crediton should not worry about St Boniface becoming "patron saint of shopping" (report, later editions, September 25): why should not a saint diversify? My own guess, however, is that St Michael the Archangel has already made a more than successful bid for the business: any M&S store proves it. "Price War in Heaven" (Revelation xii, 7)?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GASKELL,
8 Margaret Street, W1.
September 25.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 27: The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, this morning attended a Charity Day at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder, Berwickshire, and was received by Captain the Hon Gerald Maitland-Carew (Deputy Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale).

CLARENCE HOUSE
September 27: Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 27: The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee, this morning attended a Trustees' Meeting at the British Museum, London WC1.

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 28: Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning. The Reverend Robert Sloan preached the Sermon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 28: The Duke of Gloucester, President of the British Consultants Bureau, this morning departed Heathrow Airport, London, to accompany the Mission to the Republic of Yemen.

Major Nicholas Barne is in attendance.

Service luncheon

RCT
Major-General I.S. Baxter, President of the Institution of the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport, was the host at a luncheon yesterday at the Royal Marines Barracks, Chivenor, by courtesy of Lieutenant-Colonel R.K. Rowley, R.L.C. for members from the West of England.

Service reunions

RAF Tempsford Association
The 50th and final annual Tempsford reunion (138 and 161 Squadrons) was held on Saturday at the Stewart Memorial Hall, Tempsford, Bedfordshire. Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges presided.

RAF Cranwell Apprentices
Air Commodore A.J.B. Clements presided at the annual reunion of the RAF Cranwell Apprentices' Association, held on Saturday at RAF Locking, by permission of the Commanding Officer, Group Captain W.S. Rooms. Group Captain P.A. Law also spoke. Air Marshal Sir Eric Dunn, patron, was present.

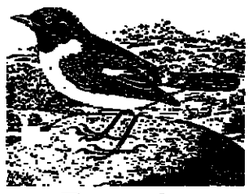
Dinners

English-Speaking Union
Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual conference dinner of the English-Speaking Union held on Saturday at the Stratford Victoria Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon. Mr Peter Sparling, Chairman of the ESU National Council for England and Wales, presided. Mrs Veronica McVey, deputy chairman, also spoke.

Magdalen Society
Mr William Hague, MP, a Magdalen graduate, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Magdalen Society at Magdalen College, Oxford, on Saturday. Mr Gerald Bowden, chairman, presided. Mr Anthony Smith, president, also spoke. Among others present were:
The Hon Michael Beloff, QC, Sir Julian Bullard, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Sir Brian Fall, Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Mr Edmund Marshall and Mr Iain Sproat.

Nature notes

STONECHATS are spreading out from the moors, and establishing winter territories in rough pastures and along hedgerows. The male has a black head, a white collar and a red breast, and often sits conspicuously on the top of a bush, making a call like pebbles struck together.


The stonechat

Whinchats, which are closely related and have a similar call, are also appearing in unexpected places, but they will all leave Britain for the winter. The males can be distinguished by their bold white eyestripes and elegantly speckled back.

As the summer migrants leave, large flocks of starlings begin to arrive from across the North Sea, along with jackdaws and hooded crows.

On hawthorn bushes, pink, purple, yellow and green leaves jostle each other. Guelder rose bushes have purple leaves and gleaming scarlet berries. The seeds have blown off the greater knapweed plants, and left behind empty seedheads like tiny silver plates. Horsetails are flourishing: they are like large green brushes with curiously segmented stalks.

Some of the tougher summer flowers are still common, including yarrow, both pink and white, mallow and Oxford ragwort. Michaelmas daisies that have escaped from gardens line the railway embankments: where they have taken over a whole field they look like giant heather.

DJM

Birthdays today

Signor Michelangelo Antonioni, film director, 85; Air Marshal Sir David Atkinson, 73; Lord Avebury, 69; Sir John Balcombe, former Lord Chief Justice of Appeal, 72; Mr Richard Bonynge, conductor, 67; Mr Chris Broad, cricketer, 40; Mr Sebastian Coe, former MP and athlete, 41; Mr John Dawes, rugby coach, 57; Mr Colin Dexter, author, 67; Professor Dorothy Emmet, philosopher, 93; Professor R.J. Evans, FBA, historian, 50; Mr Alasdair Fraser, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, 51; the Very Rev Andrew Herron, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 88; Miss Patricia Hodge, actress, 51; Dr R.A. Hodges, archaeologist, 45; Professor R.V. Jones, CH, FRS, natural philosopher, 86; Mr H.N.L. Keswick, chairman, Matheson and Company, 59; Mr Jimmy Knapp, trade unionist, 57; Viscount Lambert, 85; Mr Murray McLaggan, Lord-Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, 68; Dr Colin Niven, Headmaster, Alleyn's School, 56; Canon Paul Oestreicher, former chairman, British section, Amnesty International, 65; Sir Michael Partridge, civil servant, 61; Mr Stephen Platt, former Editor, New Statesman and Society, 43; Mr Peter Rigby, chairman and group managing director, Specialist Computer Holdings, 54; Mr David Steele, cricketer, 56; Mr Peter Stormonth Darling, director and formerly chairman, Mercury Asset Management Group, 65; Mrs Phyllis Taylor, educationist, 71; Dr Morag Timbury, former director, Central Public Health Laboratory, 67; Mrs Sarah Tyacke, Keeper of Public Records, 52; Mr Lech Walesa, former President of Poland, 54.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President, Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Sedgefield Locality Carers Centre, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, at 11.10; will open Butterwick Hospice, Stockton on Tees, at 12.30; will open a new Community Resource Centre, Norton, at 1.55; and as President, Missions to Seamen, will open the Flying Angel Club, Kinkerdale House, Tees Dock, Middlesbrough, at 3.15.

Schools

Hereford Cathedral Junior School
While the history of Hereford Cathedral School can claim to date back to near the time of the foundation of the Cathedral c 676, the first pupil entered Hereford Cathedral Junior School in May 1898. On May 9, 1998, there will be a Centenary Service and all past pupils who would like information about this and other Centenary Celebrations are asked to contact The Centenary Secretary, Hereford Cathedral Junior School, 28 Castle Street, Hereford, HR1 2NW. Tel 01432 363511. Fax 01432 363515.

Landau Forte College
The Governors of Landau Forte College, Derby, are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Stephen Whiteley as Principal. Mr Whiteley has been Acting Principal of the College since October, following the retirement of the former Principal.

GAIL PRENTICE


Captain Doug Walsh, 55, and Pam Godfrey, 45, who hired Blair Castle in the Highlands for the reception after their wedding on Saturday. The airline pilot, who was at Dunoon with the US Navy in the 1960s, flew in 120 friends and relatives from America

Memorial service

Sir Robert Aitken
Dr R.S. Burman, Pro-Chancellor of Birmingham University, attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Robert Aitken, Vice-Chancellor and Principal 1953-1968, held on Saturday in St Francis Hall. The Rev Andrew Gorman, Anglican Chaplain, officiated.

Professor Maxwell Irvine, Vice-Chancellor, read from Charles Murray's *The Whistle* and Mr David Holmes, Registrar and Secretary, read from Sir Robert's *Administration of a University*. Professor Owen Wade, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, gave an address. Among others present were:
Dr H P Aitken (son), Professor T and Dr Eleanor Aire and Mr A and Dr Marjorie Harding (sons-in-law and daughters), Sophie and Samuel Aire, Mr A Harding and Mr and Mrs P Jones (grandchildren).

Dr J R Beattson (Deputy Pro-Chancellor, Birmingham University) with Professor D R Westbury (Vice-Principal), and Professor M S Snaith and Professor F M Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellors).

Professor J Finch (Vice-Chancellor, Keel University) also representing the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom, Dr C Lucas (Master, Balliol College, Oxford), Professor D Ogston (Aberdeen University), Professor D F Williams (Liverpool University), Professor A Smith (University of Otago, New Zealand) with Professor and Mrs G Petersen, Mr R Allan (Royal College of Physicians), Dr A M Davies and Mrs M Davies (Edgbaston High School for Girls), Dr T P Matheson (Shakespeare Institute) and Mrs Matheson.

Mrs J M Irvine, Professor D B Brewer, Professor W E Burcham, Professor W Cavenagh, Professor and Mrs A T Collis, Professor and Mrs L H Finlayson, Professor and Mrs P A Garrett, Professor and Mrs G K Gilbert, Professor and Mrs D H Griffiths, Professor and Mrs S Hilton, Professor T W Hutchison, Professor F Lafitte, Professor D Livingstone, Professor and Mrs H Maddick, Professor and Mrs S V Perry, Professor A V Subiotto, Professor and Mrs P H Taylor, Professor and Mrs J Walker, Professor T P Whitehead.

Surgeon Vice-Admiral A L Revell, Mrs M J Knowles, Mr and Mrs A R W Large, Mr D P Smith, the Rev R E G and Mrs Hughes, the Rev Dr M E Isaacs and many other friends and colleagues.

Memorial concert

Miss Mary Thomas
A memorial concert in tribute to Miss Mary Thomas, soprano, was held yesterday at the Royal Academy of Music.

Mr Kenneth Bowen read *And death shall have no dominion* by Dylan Thomas, Miss Honor Blackman read *A Cry to Music* by John Masefield, Miss Jane Nelson read Mary Lee Hall's *Turn again to life* and Mr Murray Melvin read Billy Bennett's Monologue *My Mother doesn't know*.

Mr Stephen Prusslin read a tribute by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

The London Welsh Chorale, conducted by Mr Bowen sang *Ave verum corpus by Mozart* and *Dyrchafaf fy Llygaid* by Hopkin Evans. Miss Geraldine McGreevy, soprano, accompanied by Mr Timothy Walker, guitar, sang Dowland's *Come again* and *Flow my tears*, and the traditional songs *Sailor-Boy*, arranged by Britten, and and *All my trials*, arranged by Mr Walker.

Miss Dorothy Dorow, soprano, sang *Nanni* by de Falla, *Les Anges* by Satie and her own arrangement of Gershwin's *Love is here to stay*.

Miss Gayathrie Peiris, mezzo soprano, accompanied by Mr Christopher Gould, piano, sang *Bel raggio lusinghier (Semiramide)* by Rossini.

Miss Carolyn Foulkes, soprano, accompanied by a string quartet with Miss Eluned Pritchard and Miss Anna Croad, violins, Miss Nicola Busby, viola, and Miss Lucinda Jackson, cello, sang the final song in the song cycle from *Cân y galon* by Gareth Walters, commissioned by the BBC in Cardiff and first performed by Mary Thomas in 1970.

Miss McGreevy, accompanied by Mr Keith Puddy, clarinet, and Mr Gould, sang Schubert's *The Shepherd on the Rock*, Miss Elizabeth Poole, soprano, accompanied by Mr Neil Hornsby, guitar, sang Maw's *To Life* and *Neutral Tones*, Mr John Haythornthwaite, tenor, accompanied by Mr Gould, sang Quilter's *Now sleeps the crimson petal* and *Go lovely rose*.

Miss Beverley Davison, violin, accompanied by Mr Gould, sang an arrangement of Heifetz's *It ain't necessarily so* by Gershwin.

Mr James Bree, accompanied by Mr Charles Mallett, piano, sang Coleman's *A real live girl*, Miss Grace Lin, soprano, accompanied by Mr Gould, sang E.T. Davies's *Ynys y Pianu*.

A recording of Miss Thomas singing *It's been a long, long time* by Jule Styne was played during the concert. The concert ended with the London Welsh Chorale, conducted by Mr Bowen, singing Gareth Glyn's *Fantasy of Five Welsh Folk Songs*.

Dahlias defeat elements to take a gold

ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Horticultural Society's flower show with the Malvern Autumn Show in Hereford and Worcester over the weekend succeeded in reflecting the season, despite a difficult year especially for growers of dahlias and fruit.

However, a display of dahlias, whose growth was set back by the cold wet June, was judged best exhibit in the RHS show and awarded a gold medal. The giant display of high-quality blooms was staged by Philip Tivey and Sons, of Syston, Leicestershire.

Another top-quality exhibit that scooped a gold medal was a display of nerines from Springbank Nursery, of Newchurch, Isle of Wight, a first-time exhibitor at Malvern. The exhibit included two *new Nerine Sarniensis* cultivars raised by the nursery: 'Springbank Elizabeth' (rich pink) and 'Anna Baring' (pale pink).

A comprehensive display of Michaelmas daisies (asters) from Picton Garden and Old Court Nurseries, of Colwall, Hereford and Worcester, included one of their own cultivars, *Aster* 'Fair Lady' (small bright mauve flowers).

The RHS show was very strong on vegetables and fruit. A team of amateur gardeners from England, Scotland and Wales staged a collection of over 300 cultivars of potato for the National Vegetable Society, which was awarded a gold medal. One of the oldest was 'Lumpers' (1806) and among many new introductions was "Rooster", a highly rated red potato.

The display of vegetables from Thompson and Morgan, of Ipswich, Suffolk, featured a new strain of the popular exhibition onion 'Ailsa Craig'. It took Arthur Davies of Talgarth, Powys, who grew the vegetables, 29 years to perfect this onion, which has a high sugar content, a superb shape and is capable of growing to 9lb in weight. It will be available in three years' time.

The RHS garden, Wisley, Surrey, staged a collection of apples that fruited well despite the severe blossom-damaging frosts in April, either because they are late flowering or the blossoms had some frost resistance. The display included 'Fortune', 'Pixie', 'Ellison's Orange' and 'Crawley Beauty'.

Another highlight of the Malvern autumn show, organised by the Three Counties Agricultural Society, was the competition for giant vegetables. C. Bevan, of Wellingborough, won the class for the heaviest pumpkin, a 225lb giant which had to be moved with a forklift truck. The heaviest squash, shown by Alun Jones, of Liverpool, weighed over 266lb, the heaviest marrow, at just over 78lb, shown by R. Peters, of Evesham.

Marriages

Mr A. Russell and Miss R.M. Fairbairn
The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Cuckfield, West Sussex, of Mr Alexander Russell, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs Michael Russell, to Miss Rose Fairbairn, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fairbairn. The Rev Nick Wetherall and Father Kevin Taggart officiated.

The bride who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Ottilie Higson, Cressida Higson, Phoebe Higson, Augusta Higson, Minna Higson, Tilly Russell, March Fry and Orson Fry. Mr Francis Russell was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.P.M. Benton Jones and Miss L.A. Briggs
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Latimer, Buckinghamshire, of Mr James Benton Jones, eldest son of Sir Simon and Lady Benton Jones, of Irnham Hall, Lincolnshire, to Miss Lucy Briggs, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Briggs, of Blackwell Farm, Latimer. The Rev Alan Sessford officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by James Hirsch, Jessica Dickson, Fenella Dawnay, Alice King and Emily Dawson. Mr David Benton Jones was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Scotland.

Mr P.A. Owen and Miss V.M.L. Thomas
The marriage took place on Saturday at Chelsea Old Church of Mr Philip Owen, only son of Mr Victor Owen, of Liverpool, and of Mrs Barbara Clements, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, to Miss Victoria Thomas, eldest daughter of Admiral Sir Richard and Lady Thomas, of Emsworth, Hampshire. The Rev Dr Peter Elvy officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Izzy Allerston, Matilda Tillyard and George Thomas. Mr David Smeeton was best man.

A reception was held at South West Eleven and the honeymoon will be spent in Mexico.

Mr A.E. Stevens and Miss A.C. King
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Botolph's, Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes, of Mr Adrian Stevens, elder son of Mr George Simpson, and Mrs Yvonne Stevens, of Chislehurst, Kent, to Miss Annabelle King, elder daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Norman and Lady King, of Aspley Guise. The Rev John Ingham and the Rev Richard Huband officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by India Birch, Sophie Matthews, Thomas Ash, Charles May and Miss Melissa King. Mr Andrew Ash was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir Edwin Nixon and Miss B.D. Rogers
The engagement is announced between Sir Edwin Nixon, CBE, DL, of Rogate, Hampshire, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs William A. Nixon, and Bridget, elder daughter of Mrs Lenna Rogers and the late Mr Reginald Rogers, of Chobham, Surrey.

Mr I. Byatt and Dr D. Kelly
The engagement is announced between Mr Ian Byatt and Dr Deirdre Kelly, both of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Mr C.A.L. Hill and Miss P.J. Walker
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Hill, of Hursley, Hampshire, and Pippa, younger daughter of Mr Barry Walker, of Montalcino, Italy, and Mrs Hazel Walker, of Cholesbury Common, Buckinghamshire.

Lieutenant W.A. Reid, RN, and Miss S.A. McKenzie
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Mr Andrew Reid and the late Mrs Miranda Reid and of Mrs Judith Reid, of Brook, Isle of Wight, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian McKenzie, of Guildford, Surrey.

Reception

Peter Boydell, QC
Lord Inglewood was the host at a reception held on September 26 in the House of Lords by members of the Chambers of Peter Boydell, QC, (2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple) to mark his retirement from professional practice, having been Leader of the Parliamentary Bar from 1975 to 1997, Founder Chairman of the Local Government and Planning Bar Association from 1986 to 1990, and Head of Chambers from 1965 to 1997. A toast was proposed by Gerard Ryan, QC, who has now become Head of Chambers, to which Peter Boydell replied.

Appointment

Mr Jeremy Mirth Sullivan, QC, is to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division, from today.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Horatio Nelson, Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk, 1758; Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist, London, 1810; Henry Hobson Richardson, architect, St James, Louisiana, 1838; Miguel de Unamuno, poet, Bilbao, 1864; Enrico Fermi, physicist, Nobel laureate 1938, Rome, 1901; Sir Billy Butlin, holiday camp promoter, South Africa, 1899.

DEATHS: Emile Zola, novelist, Paris, 1902; Winslow Homer, painter, Prout's Neck, Maine, 1910; William Einthoven, physician, pioneer of electro-cardiography, Nobel laureate 1924, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1927; Bruce Bairnsfather, cartoonist, Worcester, 1959; Carson McCullers, novelist, Nyack, New York, 1967; W.H. Auden, poet, Vienna, 1973.

The Munich agreement was signed by Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini, 1938.

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BIRTHS

AGNELLI - On September 16th, in Turin, Italy, to Avery (née Howe) and Giovanni, a beautiful daughter, Asia.

BASHFORD - Théodore Alvaro Armand Patrick at Rennes on September 13th, a son to Benedicte (née Masson) and Roderick.

BRENNAN - On September 24th 1997 at Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston to Joanna (née Gray) and Mark a son Fabian Benedict Aitken. Deo Gratias.

CHAMBERLAYNE - On September 24th to Zoe (née Cuxham) and Edward a son, Charles Simon (Charlie).

DE SALES LA TERRIÈRE - On September 22nd, to Daisy Waugh and Peter, a daughter, Paula Sarah.

JOHNSEN - On 23rd September 1997, to Claire (née Elobeon) and Hugo, a son, Randolph, a brother for Alexander.

SWANN - On September 25th at Soignies, Belgium, to Charlotte (née Jaggard) and David, a son, Archie Casper James, a brother for Kit.

DEATHS

ANTHONY - *John Michael* Gregory, died suddenly on September 25th 1997, beloved and very special husband and father of Juliette, Emma, Lucy and Fleur. Cremation (family only) followed by Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church, Radlett (2 pm October 4th - all welcome). No flowers but donations if desired to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, PO Box 177, Chesterfield, S41 7TQ.

ARCHIBALD - Reginald Francis (Reggie). Suddenly and peacefully at home on Thursday 25th September, aged 87. Beloved husband of the late Leonie (Nonie), much loved father of Gillian and Carol, dearly loved grandfather of Nicholas, Jonathan and Clare and his 3 great-grandchildren. Private family funeral on Thursday 2nd October. Flowers may be sent to Edward White, 5 South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY. Tel: 01243 782136.

BALLS - Lesley Mary (née Kenny) died peacefully on Thursday 25th September following a characteristic, courageous and determined fight against a prolonged illness. Much beloved wife of David and devoted and loving mother of Patrick. Her enthusiasm, compassion, drive, dedication and encouragement will be missed by all who knew her. Family funeral. Details of a Memorial Service in celebration of her life will be announced later. No flowers, but donations, if desired, to The Lady Taverners, 22 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA.

BALDOCK - Joan (née Daniell), suddenly but peacefully at home on 26th September aged 85. Widow of Bill, loved sister of Nigel and mother of John and grandmother of Robert, Tom, Andrew and Jeremy. Funeral at Taunton Crematorium on Friday, 3rd October at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, c/o E. Whites & Son Ltd., 138 East Reach, Taunton TA1 3HN.

BURROW - Dorinda (née Nixon). Peacefully on 25th September. Beloved wife of Ken, much loved and missed by her children Jackie and Michael and grandchildren Emma, Thomas and Courtney Finn. Funeral service at Barham Crematorium on Thursday 2nd October at 3:30pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Chittendens Ltd. Tel: 01303 262762

CHAMBERS - H.C.M., Charles, at home on 20th September. Beloved husband of Julia and dearest father to Caroline, Julian, Jocelin, Edwina and Quintin. Private Service 24th September.

CONY - Annette. Peacefully on 26th September, 1997, in Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge. Dearly loved wife of R.C.B. (Bobby), formerly Royal Marines and I.F.C., beloved mother of Christopher and Charles and a loving grandmother. Funeral Service at St. John The Baptist Church, Campsea Ashe, Woodbridge, Suffolk, on Wednesday 1st October at 2pm. Donations for The International Fund for Animal Welfare.

LOCK - John A. R., Surgeon Captain, R.N.(retired), at home on 26th September, aged 81. Much loved husband of Elizabeth and father of Michael and Nicholas. Cremation private. Memorial service at St. Mary's, Churchstow, on Monday 13th October at 2 pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to South Hams District Nurses Fund, C/O J & G Perrott, 15 Duncombe street, Kingsbridge, Devon

MARBER - Stanley. Peacefully on 26th September after a long illness. Remembered with love by his family. Donations if desired to The Royal Star & Garter Home or The Anglers Conservation Association.

MARTIN - William Charles Gustave. Peacefully on September 26th at The Royal British Legion, Bexhill. Beloved father of Julian and Rosey. Funeral service at St. Mary's, Westerham at 12.30pm on Thursday October 2nd 1997. Flowers or donations for Cancer Research to Mummery Funeral Directors, 31, Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex. TN40 1AH. Tel: 01424 730418.

NICHOLSON - John Edward on September 25th. Beloved husband of Rosemary (Bobby), father of Phyllida, Lindsay and Andrew, grandfather of Toby, Dicon, Abigail and Iona, father-in-law of Robin Smeeton and Paul Inness. Co-founder of The Museum of Garden History. Funeral at Chelsea Old Church SW3 at 11am on Saturday October 11th. Family flowers only please but if desired donations may be sent to The Museum of Garden History, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7LB. Envelopes marked J.E.N.

NICHOLS - Susie (née Morgan). On September 18th, after a tragic accident, aged 44. Much loved sister of Tim and Ian, dear Aunt to their children and loving friend to many others - will never be forgotten by those who knew her. Funeral Service at St Mary Abbotts, off Lower Kensington Church Street at 12 noon on Wednesday 8th October.

PRIDHAM - Margaret Oliver Springer died suddenly with dignity at home on 12th September aged 89. Dearly loved mother of Colin and Lionel. Funeral at Highweek Church, Newton Abbot on 3rd October at 2.30 pm. Donations to R.N.I.B.

RUSSELL - Sir Charles Bt, on 26th September 1997 peacefully at Cirencester Hospital. Beloved husband of the late Rosemary and much loved father of Clare and Charles and grandfather of Edward, Antigua, Thomas Shepherd and Charles Russell. Funeral St Peter's R.C. Church, St Peter's Road, Cirencester on Thursday 2nd October at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Packer & Slade, (01285) 653626.

SAWTELL - Betsy (née Rapp) on 25th September 1997 aged 81. Wife of Reggie, mother of Mark and Sam, grannie to Jonathan, Matthew, Jeremy, Pippa and Christopher. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Peter's Church, Newdigate, on 4th October at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations gratefully accepted for St Catherine's Hospice c/o Shedlock & Son Ltd., Trellis House, South Street, Dorking, RH4 2HS.

WHITE - F.M.(Tim), 1910-1997, Headmaster of St. Faiths, Cambridge, 1946-1966, died 23rd September on holiday in Spain. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at Cambridge City Crematorium on Friday 3rd October at 11am. Family flowers only please. Donations to the British Epilepsy Association may be left at the funeral service or sent to C.E. Fuller & Co, 23 Hall street, Soham, Cambs, CB7 5BN. Tel: 01353 720439

WILCOX - Kenneth Martin C.B.E., R.C.A., died peacefully on September 25th aged 84. Beloved husband of Pat, wonderful father to William and Stephen, much loved grandpa to Katie, Oliver and Edward and father-in-law to Sarah. Thanksgiving Service Friday October 3rd at 2 pm at St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Avenue, Berkhamsted. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BASHFORD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lt. Col. R.B. Bashford OBE will be held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Friday 10th October 1997 at 12 noon.

JARVIS - John. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Jarvis, Air Commodore Royal Air Force (ret'd) and Headmaster of the Princess Helena College, will be held at St Mary's Church, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday 15th October 1997 at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

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Malta	£75	USA	£189
Italy	£75	Canada	£209
Canaries	£79	Australia	£569

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LEGAL NOTICES

ENVAC SERVICES LIMITED

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Wednesday 8th October 1997 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (3) (c) of the Act, Mr P Lees of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED THIS 23RD SEPTEMBER 1997
BY ORDER THE BOARD
D PRIDE, DIRECTOR

The petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Judge in the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Monday the 10 November 1997 and any person, including any employee of the said company, who claims to be adversely affected by the carrying out of the Scheme may appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel. Any person who intends so to appear, and any policyholder of the said companies affected by the Scheme but does not intend to so appear, should give not less than ten clear days prior notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and the reasons therefor, to the Solicitors named below.
Copies of the documents specified above and a copy of the Notice which Union Insurance Limited and Norwich Union Life & Pensions Limited Appointed Actuary's report will be furnished by the companies concerned and by such Solicitors to any person requesting them prior to the making of an order sanctioning the Scheme on payment of the prescribed charge ther

OBITUARIES

ROGER FREY

Roger Frey, the Fifth Republic's longest serving minister, died in Paris on September 13 aged 84. He was born in New Caledonia, on June 11, 1913.



ER FREY, a lifelong, ated Gaullist, was one of men, along with Jacques oustelle, most involved in the plotting in Paris and Algiers that hastened the death of the Fourth Republic and the subsequent return of General de Gaulle to power in 1958.

He became de Gaulle's Minister of the Interior, or chief policeman, masterminding the offensive against the Organisation de l'Armée Secrete, the band of "lost soldiers", colons and Jackal-style terrorists, opposed to Algerian independence. These were the men who more than once tried to assassinate de Gaulle.

For two years, 1961-62, Frey and his Corsican deputy, Alexandre Sanguinetti, engaged in a merciless war with the Secret Army Organisation in Algeria and France, making wide use of so-called "parallel" police units. At the same time, contained terrorism in by the members of the rian Front de Libération ionale.

This dapper, grey-haired man was always outwardly calm and courteous. He was the soul of discretion, however, and liked to conduct affairs of state in secrecy. Controversy long surrounded him. He helped to instal and protect de Gaulle, but his name also surfaced during some of the worst scandals of the Fifth Republic. These included the hushed-up murder in October 1961 of dozens of Algerian demonstrators in Paris, whose bodies were thrown into the Seine. Maurice Papon, who is now awaiting trial for allegedly helping the Germans to deport Jews during the war, was the then Préfet de Police. Frey himself maintained he knew nothing about what had occurred.

Then came the riot-police charge which killed nine French demonstrators at the Metro Charonne in February 1962, and the kidnapping of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader in October 1965.

Ben Barka's body was never found, and he was presumed to have been murdered by a gang of French policemen and Pigalle thugs working for the Moroccan authorities. Some French police inspectors were jailed for complicity, while several gangsters disappeared, also presumably murdered. At a semi-farcical trial in Paris, King Hassan's chief of police was acquitted.

Later, after 13 years as a minister, six of them in charge of the police, Frey served for nine years as president of France's fledgeling supreme court, the Conseil Constitutionne. He achieved a certain independence for this body when a sworn anti-Gaullist, François Mitterrand, became the country's President in 1981.

Frey was the son of a prosperous nickel-mining family in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia. After being educated in Paris, he returned to the island at 24 to look after the family business. Two years later, war broke out and Frey joined the Pacific Battalion of the Free French, serving as French emissary with General MacArthur before returning to Europe to join de Gaulle's staff and to serve under General de Lattre de Tassigny in Italy and France.

De Gaulle sent him on a Far Eastern mission after the war in 1945-46, during which he met Mao Tse-tung, Chou en-lai, Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. He was a prominent early member of the de Gaulle's first postwar political movement, the Rassemblement du Peuple Français, formed in 1947 after the general lost power for the first time. Frey held the Gaullist movement together during de Gaulle's dozen years in self-imposed seclusion in his village of Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises.

Soustelle was the main plotter during the events of early 1958, which saw Gaullists conniving with the army in Algeria to prepare for de Gaulle's return. Frey, however, was also on hand. Both men went to Algiers secretly in May 1958, via Majorca, where they hired contraband boats to cross the Mediterranean to join the insurrection of colons and officers.

With de Gaulle Prime Minister in the summer of 1958, Frey joind Soustelle at the Information Ministry, and worked on the constitutional reform that led to the present structure of the Fifth Republic. Despite de Gaulle's hesitation, he went ahead and created a new Gaullist party, the Union pour la Nouvelle République, which swept to success in elections for a new National Assembly.

He joined the Government of Michel Debré in 1959 as Information Minister, one of his tasks being to control state television and radio. He quickly moved to the Interior Ministry when the generals staged their Algiers putsch in April 1961 and there was fear of a rebel paratroop drop in France. Frey handed out helmets at his ministry.

From 1962, Georges Pompidou kept him as Interior Minister in his Governments, and Frey remained a Gaullist minister for 13 years, serving also under Maurice Couve de Murville and Jacques Chaban-Delmas. He helped to organise the Gaullist backlash following the street demonstrations and social upheaval of May 1968.

His influence declined with the arrival of new advisers at the Elysée when Pompidou became President, but shortly before Pompidou's death he was named head of the Conseil Constitutionnel.

There, Frey sought to open the "court" to pleas from deputés, and even voted against Mitterrand's first nationalisation Bill in 1982. Later in the 1980s his island background and negotiating skills enabled him to play a role in calming a tense situation in New Caledonia after the shooting of *independantistes* by gendarmes. His wife died last year. He is survived by a daughter and son.

DEREK FENNER

Derek Fenner, Headmaster of Alleyn's School, 1976-92, died from leukaemia on September 6 aged 63. He was born on September 17, 1933.



DEREK FENNER crowned a distinguished career in education when in 1976 he was appointed Headmaster of Alleyn's School, Dulwich. For the next 16 years, until his retirement, he played a key role in the development of co-education in the independent sector. He was chairman of the London division and the co-educational division of the Headmasters' Conference, and also chairman of the South-East committee of the Independent Schools Information Service.

At Alleyn's he found the perfect opportunity to bring to fruition a system in which he passionately believed. Alleyn's had just taken in its first handful of sixth form girls when he arrived, and although never decrying the merits of single-sex schools he zealously pursued his own avowed goal, which was "to encourage the happiness of pupils in a more natural environment". Thanks to his inspiration, Alleyn's became the flagship of fee-paying co-education in London, and Fenner was justifiably proud of the cheerful composure with which his pupils went on to confront the stresses of co-educational university life. Scores of headmasters turned to him for advice as other boys' schools followed the path he had pioneered.

In his time at Cambridge, Fenner was probably unlucky not to win a cricketing Blue, but he went on to found the Grasshoppers, the Surrey club with which he was associated for 44 years, ten of them as president. So Alleyn's, with its cricketing tradition — alumni include Mickey Stewart and John Pretlove — was a particularly suitable school for him to lead.

It was fitting, too, that someone so keen on amateur dramatics should have been chosen to head a school founded by an Elizabethan actor, and one, moreover, where Michael Croft had founded the National Youth Theatre. Alleyn's model railway club reflected another of Fenner's lifelong passions. The train, preferably on a branch line, was his favourite means of travel.

In his time at Alleyn's he oversaw a major building programme, including a sports hall, a music centre and many other facilities, culminating in the creation of the new Junior School, which Terry Waite opened in 1992.

Born at Tadworth in Surrey, Derek Fenner was educated at Epsom College, where he became school captain. After National Service with the RAF and a degree in mathematics from Caius College, Cambridge, he went into commerce, but quickly left it for teaching. What chiefly influenced him at the time was a feeling that he would like "the quiet life of a schoolmaster with plenty of holidays" — an aspiration he was later to reflect upon with a wry smile.

In his new vocation he returned to Epsom, where he became a housemaster. In 1972 he was appointed deputy head of Dauntsey's School, Devizes. Here too he played a sizeable part in move towards co-education.

Having at various times been chairman of the Old Epsonians and president of the Edward Alleyn Club, he retired to Polzeath in Cornwall, where he celebrated 40 years of very happily married life with Diana, herself a most popular and supportive figure throughout his career. In retirement he devoted himself to local politics and served as an energetic governor of Dean Close and Truro Schools. In his last years he showed characteristic humour and resilience in his struggle with leukaemia.

He leaves his widow, a daughter and a son.

LEONARD MAGUIRE

Leonard Maguire, actor, died on September 12 aged 73. He was born on May 26, 1924.



LEONARD MAGUIRE's gifts made him one of the outstanding talents of the Scottish theatre. He played eccentric characters brilliantly, bringing a fecund intellect and considerable erudition to his performances. For a time he presented serious television and radio programmes, and he also wrote a series of one-man shows which were acclaimed at the Edinburgh Festival. But he never quite received the recognition he deserved, perhaps because he disliked personal publicity.

Leonard Maguire was educated at St Mungo's Academy in Glasgow. After being invalided out of the RAF he joined the Citizens' Theatre as an assistant stage manager and founding member in 1943. His first experience of acting was as part of a gifted company that included the incomparable Duncan Macrae. Later Scots actors, such as Bill Paterson, came to regard Maguire as an influence comparable to Macrae himself.

After repertory at Harrogate and Rugby, he went to London for an audition, but failed to realise that the apparently elderly man interviewing him was Laurence Olivier. Maybe the youthful Olivier was using this disguise to display gravitas; or perhaps, such was his glamour at the time, he did not wish to dazzle.

Undazzled, Maguire duly landed the part, in Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*, which starred Vivien Leigh. He also appeared with John Gielgud in *Crime and Punishment*. When Olivier left for an Australian tour he asked Maguire to hold himself available, but circumstances forced him to take other roles, notably with Edith Evans in Tyrone Guthrie's production of *The Rivals*.

Maguire now returned to the English provinces, and then to Scotland. He appeared in the 1951 Edinburgh Festival production of *The Three Estates*, and at subsequent festivals as Macbeth and in the first public performance of Dylan Thomas's unproduced screenplay *Doctor and the Devils*.

Like many other actors of the period, notably his contemporary Tom Fleming, he found television and radio a more reliable meal-ticket than the stage. In the early days he used to wear a coat in the studio to disguise the poverty of his clothes, but he was soon in demand and over the next 15 years he worked on almost 2,000 radio programmes, including *Scope*, devised by the BBC's James McTaggart, *Perspective* and *Tempo*.

When Iain Cutherberton became director of the Citizens', Maguire returned to give one of his most memorable performances as Sir David Lindsay in the 1964 premiere of John Arden's *Armstrong's Last Goodnight*. He appeared at the Edinburgh Lyceum in Bill Bryden's 1973 production of Roddy McMillan's working-class drama *The Bevellers*, for which he prepared with the thoroughness of a Method actor: covering his clothes in cigarette ash, and bringing a fresh energy to each performance so that fellow actors had to respond nimbly to his shifts of nuance, mood and even position.

Between 1974 and 1978 he created five one-man shows, becoming the only performer ever to win the Edinburgh Festival Fringe First award three years running. Among his shows were dramatisations of the lives and works of the poets Henryson, Dunbar and Coleridge. *An Evening of Scottish Horrors* was based on stories by R. L. Stevenson.

When he returned to London in 1979 to join the English Actors' Company, his unusual gift for playing quirky characters attracted the interest of television and film producers. The director Peter Greenaway was struck by his performance in an episode of *Bergerac*, and cast Maguire as the voice of the book in his film *Prospero's Books* (1991). Maguire also played in *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Rumpole* and *Dr Who*. His film credits included *The Honorary Consul* (1982) and *A Dry White Season* (1988). In 1994 he worked with Willem Dafoe on a forthcoming film of Joseph Conrad's *Victory*.

He spent his final years in France, at Cordes-sur-Ciel near Montauban, with his wife, Frances Campbell. He is survived by her and by their son and two daughters.

HYWEL EVANS

Hywel Evans, CB, former Welsh Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, died on September 6 aged 87. He was born on January 24, 1910.



FROM a career in the British agricultural advisory service, Hywel Evans rose to become Welsh Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture. He commanded respect for his understanding of European, British and Welsh agriculture, and for his ability to combine a diplomatic skill with firmly held views on agricultural policy.

Born in Caernarvonshire, Hywel Eifion Evans was the only child of Griffith and Winifred Evans of Felin Rhydhir — a water mill — at Efail Newydd, near Pwllheli. He was the son and grandson of millers, and had much to tell about the traditional craft and laborious toil of milling grain. He often described the benefits he received through a solidly traditional education at Pwllheli Grammar School. From there he went to Madryn Farm Institute and thence to the then University College of North Wales, Bangor, to study agriculture.

In 1934 he became a research assistant in the department of agricultural economics at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, under Professor A. W. Ashby. This was a formative period, not least because of his marriage to Mary Elizabeth Jones.

After the outbreak of war he was selected as district officer of the Leicestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee. This greatly extended his knowledge of British farming and of agricultural policies. It was also the foundation of a lifelong ability to understand and remember the people, resources and local issues in farming wherever he went.

After the war he returned to Wales to work for the new National Agricultural Advisory Service. During the 1950s he acquired a reputation for wide knowledge, balanced judgment and firm views, never timidly expressed. But he was always alive to the needs of the people he served.

For two years from 1967 he served as senior agricultural adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture in London, in preparation for his final posting, back to Aberystwyth as the ministry's Welsh Secretary until his retirement in 1975.

He was skilled at balancing local needs with political ends, although he found dealing with the detailed demands of the EEC's common agricultural policy traumatic.

He was a governor of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and a fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies. He was appointed CB on his retirement, and went on to serve on the Welsh Water Authority and on the council of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Always practical, yet respectful of sound academic achievement, he was the voice of unequivocal common sense. Throughout his life he showed the characteristics of a leader: clarity of purpose, courage, concern for principles and firm delegation of detail, as well as an appealing personal warmth. A Welshman to the core, he understood all the aspirations of his compatriots, but never espoused nationalism.

Retirement gave him more time for fly-fishing, for his interest in military history, and for his family. He returned to Pwllheli to enjoy his last few years close to them, and took great pride and pleasure in the achievements of his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his son and daughter. After his first wife's death in 1977, he married Mair Jones, who died in 1991.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Kenneth Boullier, formerly Vicar, Kaitaia St Saviour's, Mangamui St Andrew's, and Pukenui St Mary's (Auckland, New Zealand), to be Rector, Nailsea Holy Trinity (Bath & Wells).

The Rev David Bourne, Assistant Curate, Portsea St Mary (Portsmouth), to be Chaplain, HMP Kingston (same diocese).

Prebendary Liz Cross, Vicar, Wedmore with Theale and Blackford, and Dean of Women's Ministry (Bath and Wells), to be also Mothers' Union Chaplain (same diocese).

The Rev Neil Evans, Chaplain, St John's College (Durham), to be Assistant Curate, East Clevedon and Walton w Weston w Clapton in Gordano (Bath and Wells).

The Rev David Fayle, Priest-in-Charge, Taunton All Saints (Bath and Wells), to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Michael Foster, Vicar, Lydbrook Holy Jesus (Gloucester), to be Rector, Winterton, East and West Somerton and Horsey, and Hemsby (Norwich).

The Rev Brian Gillett, Rector, Kingstone with Clehonger, Eaton Bishop, Allensmore and Thruxton (Hereford), to be Vicar, Baltonsborough with Butleigh and West Bradley (Bath and Wells).

The Rev James Hair, Assistant Curate, Portchester and Hook with Warsash (Portsmouth), to be also Community Mental Health Chaplain, Fareham and Gosport Deaneries (same diocese).

The Rev David Hare, Vicar, Handsworth St Michael (Birmingham), to be Rector, Newton Regis with Seckington and Shuttington (same diocese).

The Rev Jim Hawthorne, Chaplain, St Philip and St James, Palma de Mallorca, Spain (Europe), to be also Priest-in-Charge, Menorca (same diocese).

The Rev James Leggen, Assistant Curate, Hensingham St John's (Carlisle), to be Minister, St James Proprietary Chapel, Ryde, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth).

The Rev Adrian Manning, Assistant Curate, Oxhey All Saints (St Albans), to be Assistant Chaplain, Bedford School (same diocese).

The Rev Roger Reed, Priest-in-Charge, Blendworth with Chalton with Idsworth (Portsmouth), to be Rector, Wincanton, and Pen Selwood (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Andrew Rimmer, Assistant Curate, Hazlemere Holy Trinity (Oxford), to be Vicar, Good Shepherd, Crookhorn (Portsmouth).

The Rev Carl Schaefer, Curate, Ribbleton (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Blackburn St Thomas with St Jude (same diocese).

The Rev Ralph Shaw, Vicar, Tanfield (Durham), to be Vicar, South Shields St Aidan and St Stephen (same diocese).

The Rev Rachel Simper, Curate, Norwich St Peter Mancroft (Norwich), to be Vicar, Slyne with Hest (Blackburn).

The Rev Dr Simon Stephens, formerly Chaplain Royal Navy, to be Assistant Chaplain, Menorca, Spain (Europe).

The Rev Ronald Swan, Harrow on the Hill St Mary's (London), to be Master of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine in Ratcliffe (London).

The Rev John Thorogood, Priest-in-Charge, the Camelot Parishes (Bath and Wells), to be Vicar, Evercreach with Chesterblade and Milton Clevedon (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Michael Coombe, Precentor of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, and Port Chaplain, Gibraltar (Europe), to retire January 4, 1998.

The Rev Peter Evans, Vicar, Beckermet with Ponsonby (Carlisle) to retire October 31 for health reasons.

"MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION."

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE IN LONDON

Pread	OLIVER JOHNSTON
Sir George Crofts	CHARLES SEWELL
The Rev Samuel Gardner	ARTHUR CLAREMONT
Frank	GEORGE BANCROFT
Vivie	VALERIE RICHARDS
Mrs. Warren	FLORENCE JACKSON

Written more than 30 years ago, and first acted in London privately by the Stage Society in 1902, Mr. Bernard Shaw's *Mrs Warren's Profession* was given its first public performance in London last night, when the Macdona Players produced it at the Regent Theatre. When it was first seen, after what Mr. Shaw himself described as a "delay of only eight years", the author took infinite pleasure in criticising the criticisms of his work.

According to him, many of those who saw the piece were upset. Last night, however, the play was received with perfect equanimity. Mrs. Warren's "profession" is still not a subject for drawing-room discussion, but many such subjects are discussed in plays in these days, and it is sufficient to say that Mr. Shaw has taken a difficult theme and told as many truths about it as he felt inclined. There can be no question now of condemning it as an "immoral" play. Whether it is a true work of art is a different matter, for the author has been so insistent on driving unpalatable truths and half truths over the footlights that his balances are sometimes upset.

At any rate, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* has not suffered the fate of many "up-to-date" plays; it has not "dated". Perhaps it was before its time when it was privately performed, for apart from certain superficialities, it might have been written quite recently. There is no question, moreover, of the stage-craft in it, for, even when the author is being most didactic, his sense of the stage carries him through again into clear dramatic waters. It is the heroine herself who is the weakest part, and it is rather ironical that this "modern" strong-minded young woman should be the one dramatic fault of the play.

She has not dated; that was impossible, for her unreality is not of one age, but of all time. She is merely a machine, perfect as only such a machine can be, but even such an artist as her creator cannot endow her with life. Miss Valerie Richards did her best with the part, but one simply could not believe in Vivie.

This inevitably turned a little too much sympathy in the direction of Mrs. Warren, and Miss Florence Jackson's performance strengthened this tendency. After rather a false start, she acted well in her big scenes and so indeed did the other "villain of the piece", Sir George Crofts, played by Mr. Charles Sewell, who, in the second act, gave an excellent study of cultured malice. Pread, Frank, and the Reverend Samuel Gardner are three more puppets, always expressing opinions which seldom seem their own, and all three actors who played them found them difficult to portray.

Mr. Esme Percy's production was quite efficient, but surely a little of the superficial "dating" might have been avoided.

ON THIS DAY

September 29, 1925

Shaw's play about prostitution was first put on privately in 1902. The censor's objection to the subject matter meant that the play was not give its first public performance until 1925.

THE TIMES TODAY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1997

NEWS

Labour pledges full employment

■ Labour will today mark its first conference in government for 19 years by restoring the party's historic commitment to full employment.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will announce that he is considering American-style plans to put extra money into the pay packets of the poorest earners through tax credits. Both Mr Brown and Tony Blair will make plain that the welfare state's overhaul is the centrepiece of a crusade to turn Britain into an institution that creates jobs and opportunities.....**Page 1**

Nurse goes on hunger strike

■ Lucille McLauchlan, the British nurse sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail in Saudi Arabia for her part in the murder of Yvonne Gilford, has gone on hunger strike after authorities refused to let her telephone her parents.....**Page 1**

Merger on

Asda and Safeway have aborted merger talks that would have created Britain's biggest supermarket chain, but City sources said they would come under pressure to restart negotiations..... **Page 1**

Lawyers' fury

Senior Queen's Counsel reacted with fury to the Home Secretary's comments about their "stunning" earnings, saying his figures were misleading and made to score political points..... **Page 12**

Sinn Fein meeting

Tony Blair is likely to meet Gerry Adams soon after this week's Labour conference and become the first Prime Minister to talk directly to a Sinn Fein leader since 1921 .....**Page 2**

Churchill cover-up

Winston Churchill's wartime Government ordered the suppression of casualty figures and other details after a German air raid devastated a Scottish town, a book reveals ..... **Page 13**

Jail row

A British teenager accused of drugs smuggling in Russia has been subjected to "inhuman treatment", her mother said.... **Page 3**

Karadzic accused

Radovan Karadzic, the indicted Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect, has switched DM49 million (£17 million) out of Republika Srpska into foreign bank accounts, President Plavsic said ..... **Page 14**

Paedophile book

A novel detailing the crimes and fantasies of a murderous paedophile, which was widely condemned in America, is to be published in Britain ..... **Page 7**

Crime crackdown

Russia's criminals and profiteers were told by President Yeltsin that the days of plundering the nation's wealth are over. **Page 15**

Treasure find

Gold coins belonging to Clive of India have been found on the Indian Ocean floor, almost 250 years after being lost in a storm and may fetch £500,000 at auction .....**Page 8**

Aids 'guinea pigs'

Charles Farthing, who set up England's largest Aids clinic, plans to inject himself and other volunteers with a weakened but live HIV strain to try to create a vaccine..... **Page 16**

Playgroup crisis

More than 800 playgroups have been forced out of business by schools expanding their reception classes to take four-year-olds and their nursery voucher income, a survey shows..... **Page 10**

Crash deadline

Hundreds of relatives of passengers killed in last week's Sumatra air crash tried desperately to identify remains before a deadline for a mass burial..... **Page 17**

Ascot runners are off on new course

■ Measures to bring Royal Ascot closer to the people are being considered by those running the smartest social event in Britain's racing calendar. Changes include improving the comfort of spectators, particularly by reducing the number let into the grandstand. The June event may also soon grasp the nettle of sponsorship, now banned .....**Page 1**

MIKE FIALA / AP



Young drummers perform at a Beijing outdoor festival, one of many events in the run-up to China's national day on Wednesday

BUSINESS

Flotations: Despite a record performance from the stock market this year, few companies have applied to raise new capital.....**Page 56**

Northern Rock: The building society's payment of a £2,000 windfall to its 900,000 members is worth the equivalent of 12 per cent of the average gross annual wage in the North East.....**Page 56**

T&N: The bid battle is intensifying as T&N, the engineering group, looks set to reject a £1.2 billion approach from Federal Mogul, an American rival.....**Page 56**

Books etc: The Americanisation of the UK book market is poised to accelerate after the £40 million takeover of Books etc by Borders Group, the US bookselling chain .....**Page 56**

ARTS

Melvyn Bragg: "Real news would be: Libraries to get funds to do essential job well".....**Page 22**

Victim of time: *The Boys in the Band*, Mart Crowley's serious comedy about gay life in New York, broke ground almost 30 years ago. But a London revival shows the play has lost its sting.....**Page 22**

Quality threshold: The Royal Ballet may have a tough time selling seats at Labatt's Apollo in Hammersmith, but they are not selling people short short on performance quality.....**Page 23**

Unusual opera: The Arts Council's Year of Opera and Musical Theatre highlight is *Out of the Blue*, a community opera staged in the harbour and by the beach at Gorleston-on-Sea .....**Page 23**

MIND AND MATTER

Linguistic fingerprints: A scientific technique used by lawyers to determine authorship is under scrutiny. Anjana Ahuja reports.....**Page 19**

Back in the future: Scientists have healed spinal cord damage in rats. Can people benefit, too? ....**Page 19**

FEATURES

Today's news: Paul Donovan introduces extracts from his book on Britain's influential radio programme ..... **Page 20**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

15, 21, 29, 32, 33, 40. Bonus: 42. Five ticket-holders shared £27.1 million. Forty-five with five numbers and the bonus won £92,271; 1,325 with five numbers, £1,958; 73,801 with four numbers. £77.

SPORT

Golf: Europe retained the Ryder Cup at Valderrama by 14½-13½, Bernhard Langer overcoming Brad Faxon in the match that decided the trophy's destiny**Pages 29, 30, 31, 33**

Football: Dion Dublin, of Coventry City, and Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn Rovers, were sent off in Ewood Park's 0-0 draw.....**Page 37**

Motor racing: Jacques Villeneuve seized a crucial advantage in the world drivers' championship by winning the Luxembourg Grand Prix while Michael Schumacher was forced out.....**Page 34**

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, defeated by Pete Sampras in the semi-final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich, announced he is to link up with Tony Pickard, the former coach of Stefan Edberg .... **Page 40**

Rugby union: Llanelli took a step towards the Heineken Cup playoffs with a 14-10 victory over Pau.....**Page 35**

Rugby league: Wigan Warriors beat St Helens 33-20 in the Premiership final..... **Page 40**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Back in fashion: the D'Oyly Carte opera company relaunches itself

■ LAW
Car crashes: how liable are the manufacturers?

THE PAPERS

Rumours that Tony Blair wants to take Britain into the single currency after all have created a "Europhoria" in London business and financial circles. It remains to be seen whether New Labour will really break with British isolationism and open up a new chapter in its relationship with the rest of Europe — *La Repubblica*

TV & RADIO

Review: John Diamond finds television struggling to record the Conservative Party's downfall. **Preview:** A lively look at Beachy Head, *Picture This* (BBC2, 9.30pm)..... **Pages 54, 55**

OPINION

Beware EMU ambush

The Prime Minister must deny plans to hold an early referendum or to set a deadline for EMU. Still better, he could force Mr Brown to dissociate himself from such proposals in his speech today.....**Page 25**

The giant wakes

Privatisation of Russia's economy continues apace. Now the President must stop the stirring giant from causing damage as it awakes.....**Page 25**

Eagles and other birdies

Golf is the one mass spectator sport at which a huge crowd still falls eerily silent at crisis. As yesterday showed, more than in any other sport little-known underdogs can still beat world-famous favourites.....**Page 25**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
All the opposition parties in Britain should insist that a partial reform of the House of Lords is not good enough; merely abolishing the hereditary peers falls far short of what is required...**Page 24**

PETER RIDDELL
Tony Blair is far too popular for his own good ... the myth of Blair the Superman may undermine Blairism.....**Page 24**

VERNON BOGDANOR
Social cohesion — another name for fellowship, which lay at the heart of Labour's pioneers — is central to the new Labour project.....**Page 24**

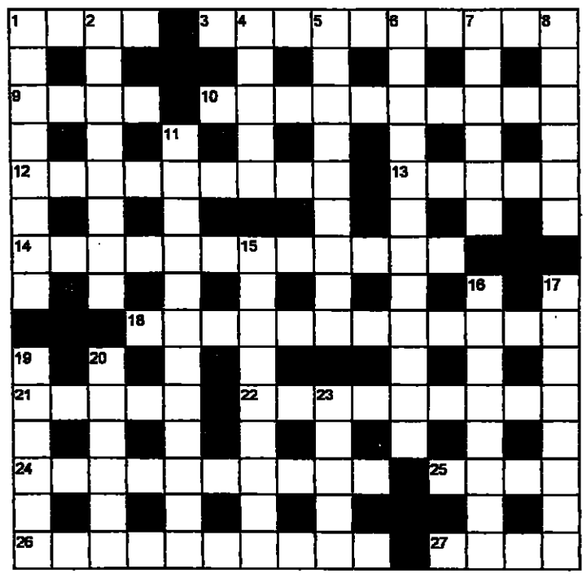
OBITUARIES

Roger Frey, Gaullist minister; **Leonard Maguire**, actor; **Derek Fenner**, headmaster of Alleyn's.....**Page 27**

LETTERS

Decentralisation after devolution and entry into single market; recognising dyslexia; Prince Imperial's death in Zulu wars; Major's legacy; RA exhibition, new Crystal Palace; Red Cross symbol. **Page 25**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,597



ACROSS

1 Loose-fitting dress obligatory for certain races (4).
3 You might find her involved in show, on mare (10).
9 Knowing how to make a bow (4).
10 Impossible to find clothes for? Not fitting! (10).
12 Short break finally taken by retiring communist officer (9).
13 Austrian poet's class in religious education (5).
14 Bias in prophecy is extremely lamentable (12).
18 Cardinal in American prison (12).
21 Fibre from former county town, say (5).
22 Artificial, or most genuine flannel? (9).
24 Mole takes brief rest by river, perhaps (10).
25 Bond's problem (4).
26 Daughter assisted priest in cathedral city, as is merited (10).
27 Political group forming to prevent king escaping (4).

DOWN

1 One's craft may be revealed in such a painting (8).
2 Initially crags unnerve and hinder a climber (5).
4 Recognised outstanding bridge player coming in (5).
5 Servant on stage worked out best route (9).
6 Drink with J, for example, a six-foot swimmer (5-7).
7 Free to move around city in Alabama (6).
8 Required to be massaged, say (6).
11 Skilled carpenter's description of Liverpool in 1812? (7-5).
15 Get rid of old priest popular within China (9).
16 Subject no one raised in an African province (8).
17 Endlessly phone city organisation supplying soporific drug (8).
19 School doctor taken in and thoroughly searched (6).
20 Sportsmen who let things slide – they go downhill fast (6).
23 Best imaginable fish on a line (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,596 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 56

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.58 am — Sun sets: 6.43 pm
Moon sets: 5.58 pm — Moon rises: 4.30 am
New moon October 1
London 6.45 pm to 7.00 am
Bristol 6.53 pm to 7.09 am
Edinburgh 6.53 pm to 7.14 am
Manchester 6.51 pm to 7.09 am
Penzance 7.05 pm to 7.21 am

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** Scotland and Northern Ireland bright and breezy with sunny spells and a few showers, once any early rain has cleared the extreme south. Most of the showers are likely on west-facing coasts and hills. Northern England and North Wales cloudy at first with sprinkles of rain, but brighter this afternoon. The rest of England and Wales largely cloudy with a few spots of rain, although the South East should be dry with a little warm sunshine. The Irish Republic will be cloudy with sunny intervals.

Mist or fog might form in northern and western areas tonight.

☐ **London, SE England, Ch'l Is:** Any early fog and low cloud should clear to leave a dry day with some warm sunshine; cloudier this afternoon. Light SW wind. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **E Anglia, Cent S, E, SW England, Midlands, S Wales:** *Mainly dry and cloudy* with a few spots of rain and drizzle. Light and variable wind. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **N Wales, NW, Cent N, NE England, Lakes, IoM:** A little rain at first; brighter from north with sunny spells by afternoon. Moderate SW wind will become light and variable. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** Bright, fresh with sunny periods and one or two isolated showers. Moderate W wind. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** Sunny spells and one or two passing showers. Brisk W wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Windy with sunny periods and a few brief showers. Strong W wind. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** Rather cloudy, with sunny periods. Wind W light. Max 20C (68F).

☐ ***Outlook:*** *Unsettled and rather windy in* north with rain at times, but mostly fine in south and east with warm sunshine.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

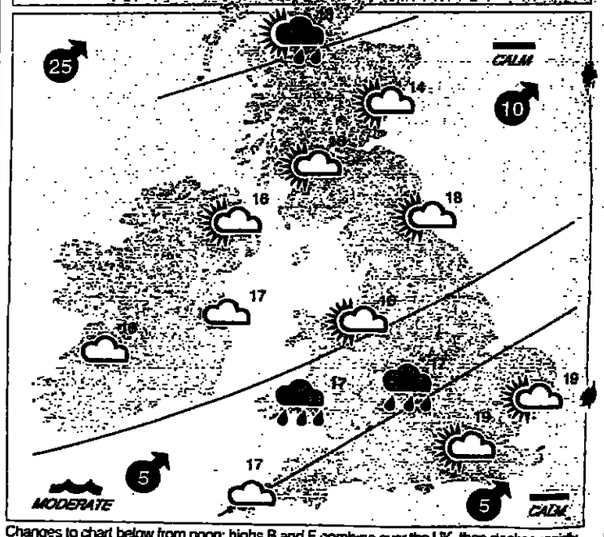
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.8	-	16	61	b
Anglesey	2.5	-	17	63	c
Aspatria	2.7	-	17	63	b
Avemore	3.0	0.01	14	57	c
Belfast	0.4	0.01	17	63	c
Birmingham	3.5	-	19	66	b
Bognor R	7.3	-	21	70	s
Bournem'th	-	-	17	63	c
Bristol	4.2	-	20	68	s
Buxton	1.2	-	16	61	b
Cardiff	4.8	-	18	64	s
Clacton	5.1	-	16	61	s
Colwyn Bay	5.3	-	19	66	s
Cromer	5.4	-	17	63	s
Dumfries	2.6	-	17	63	b
Eastbourne	7.3	-	18	64	s
Edinburgh	1.6	0.01	17	63	c
Eskdalemuir	2.2	0.01	15	59	b
Exmouth	3.3	-	18	64	b
Falmouth	6.7	-	18	64	s
Fishguard	5.5	-	17	63	b
Folkestone	4.7	-	18	64	b
Glasgow	-	-	17	63	du
Guernsey	3.1	-	20	68	b
Hastings	5.2	-	18	64	s
Hayling I.	0.9	-	18	64	c
Herne Bay	1.2	-	17	63	du
Hove	8.0	-	20	68	s
Hunstanton	4.1	-	18	64	b
Isle-of-man	0.5	-	17	63	b
Isle-of-wight	0.7	-	17	63	c
Jersey	5.7	-	21	70	s
Kinloss	1.8	0.01	16	61	r
Leeds	1.8	-	18	64	b
Lerwick	0.3	0.01	13	55	c
Leuchars	2.7	-	17	63	c
Littlehmptn	6.1	-	19	66	b
London	3.7	-	20	68	s
Lowestoft	2.5	-	17	63	s
Manchester	2.5	-	18	64	b
Margate	1.8	-	18	64	c
Minehead	6.0	-	21	70	s
Morecombe	2.8	-	19	66	b
Newquay	6.9	-	19	66	s
Norwich	7.2	-	19	66	s
Oxford	3.1	-	19	66	du
Penzance	X	-	18	64	s
Ross-o-wye	3.4	-	18	64	c
Salcombe	4.1	-	19	66	b
Saunton Snd	6.6	-	21	70	s
Scarboro'	2.1	-	17	63	s
Shrewsbury	3.1	-	17	63	b
Skegness	2.7	-	17	63	b
Southport	3.9	-	18	64	s
Southsea	2.5	-	19	66	s
Stornoway	-	0.02	14	57	r
Tenby	5.2	-	17	63	b
Tiree	0.2	0.12	14	57	r
Torquay	4.5	-	20	68	s
Weymouth	2.2	-	17	63	c

ABROAD

Ajaccio	26	77	s	C'phagn	16	61	s
Alicante	29	79	f	Dublin	18	61	f
Alex'dria	27	81	c	Dubrovnik	22	72	s
Algiers	27	81	f	Faro	23	73	c
Amst'dm	14	57	c	Florence	X		
Athens	23	73	f	Frankfurt	20	68	s
B Aires	13	55	r	Funchal	24	75	c
Bahrain	36	97	s	Geneva	15	59	c
Bangkok	31	88	f	Gibraltar	23	73	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	11	52	f
Barcelona	24	75	s	Hong K	26	79	f
Beirut	30	86	f	Innsbrck	20	68	s
Belgrade	18	64	f	Istanbul	19	66	f
Berlin	16	61	f	Jeddah	X		
Bermuda	X			Jo'burg	27	81	s
Biarritz	28	82	s	Karachi	X		
Borde'x	28	82	s	L Angels	19	66	s
Brussels	12	54	c	L Palmas	25	77	c
Budapst	19	66	s	La Tquet	20	68	f
Cairo	31	88	s	Lisbon	22	72	f
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	19	66	s
Ch'church	14	57	X	Luxembg	21	70	s
Chicago	9	48	s	Luxor	37	99	s
Cologne	20	68	s	Madrid	22	72	s
Corfu	23	73	s	Majorca	27	81	s
Malaga	17	63	f
Malta	24	75	c
Melb'rne	17	63	c
Mexico C	18	64	c
Miami	28	82	s
Milan	X		
Montreal	8	43	f
Moscow	4	39	c
Munich	20	68	s
N Delhi	34	93	s
N York	11	52	s
Nairobi	29	84	s
Naples	X		
Nice	23	73	s
Oslo	14	57	s
Paris	24	75	c
Peking	24	75	s
Perth	20	68	f
Prague	12	54	c
Reykjavik	8	46	f
Rhodes	22	72	f
Rio de J	21	70	f
Riyadh	41	106	s
Rome	X		
S Fr'isco	14	57	c
S Paulo	X		
Salzburg	19	66	s
Santiago	9	48	r
Seoul	21	70	f
Sing'por	32	90	c
St'kholm	12	54	s
Strasb'rg	21	70	s
Sydney	21	70	f
Tangier	22	72	c
Tel Aviv	31	88	s
Tenerife	26	82	f
Tokyo	23	73	f
Toronto	16	61	s
Tunis	27	81	s
Valencia	25	77	f
Vanc'ver	14	57	r
Venice	X		
Vienna	17	63	f
Warsaw	13	55	c
Wash'ton	22	72	s
Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Zurich	14	57	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: highs B and E combine over the UK, then decline rapidly. Low A expected to track east across England; low F fills as it moves slowly towards SE Iceland

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01 15	6.8	13.34	6.8
Aberdeen	00 45	4.0	13.15	3.9
Avonmouth	06 45	12.1	19 02	12.5
Belfast	10.42	3.1	22.45	3.4
Cardiff	06 31	11.3	18.48	11.6
Devonport	05 19	5.1	17 31	5.3
Dover	10 39	6.3	23 03	6.2
Dublin (N Wall)	11.27	3.7	23 39	4.0
Fairmouth	04 50	4.9	17.02	5.1
Greenock	-	-	12.33	3.2
Harwich	11 25	3.7	23.51	3.8
Holyhead	10 08	5.1	22.18	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	05 51	8.0	18.20	7.9
Ilfracombe	05.33	8.3	17 50	8.6
King's Lynn	05 54	6.1	18 27	6.1

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	02.09	5.1	14 31	5.0
Liverpool	10.54	8.7	23 10	9.0
Lowestoft	08.57	2.4	21 46	2.4
Margate	11.42	4.4	-	-
Milford Haven	05.48	6.2	18 03	6.5
Newquay	04.40	6.2	16 56	6.5
Oban	05.31	3.5	17 40	3.7
Penzance	04.12	5.0	16 27	5.2
Portland	06.22	1.7	18 28	1.8
Portsmouth	11.00	4.4	23 08	4.3
Shoreham	10.53	5.7	23.13	5.7
Southampton	10.31	4.4	22.45	4.4
Swansea	05 54	8.6	18 14	9.0
Tees	03.04	5.0	15.33	5.0
Walton-on-N	11.19	3.8	23 46	3.9

All times BST. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: South Uist, 0.35in, highest sunshine: Hove, East Sussex, 8 hr



RNLI RESCUE UPDATE – 29 SEPTEMBER 1997

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	658
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	2,843
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هكذا من الاصل

29 31

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



FAST TRACKING TO THE TITLE
Jacques Villeneuve wins on points in Germany
PAGE 34

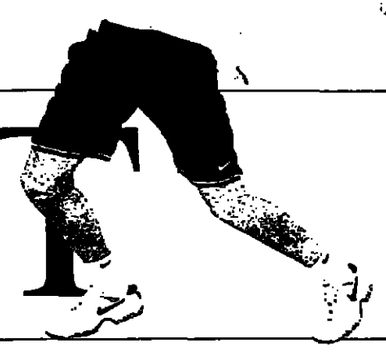


RACE FOR THE PREMIERSHIP
Chelsea and Leicester move up the rankings
PAGES 36, 37

RUGBY
More success for English clubs in Europe
PAGE 35



OLD TEACHER, NEW COACH
Greg Rusedski looks to Tony Pickard for help
PAGE 40



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1997

LANGER FINDS THE RIGHT FINISH TO HALT AMERICAN REVIVAL

Europe's reign continues

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT VALDERRAMA



Leading article 25
Europe united 30
Tale of two captains 30-31
Woosnam uncoupled 31
Spaniard's destiny 31

THE image is embedded in the mind's eye. It is of Bernhard Langer, his head thrown back as if he has been punched on the jaw, his body curved in anguish. You could almost hear the groan that emerged from his mouth as the short putt that would have tied the 1991 Ryder Cup on the shores of the Atlantic slipped past the hole.

Six years later, and this time on the shores of the Mediterranean, Langer wielded his putter once more to remind us that there is an essential fairness in sport. It is not always the case that golf offers a chance to get even, but it did so as near as makes no difference at Valderrama, in southern Spain, yesterday.

The distance of Langer's putt was much the same as it had been at about the same time that fateful afternoon at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, in 1991. The reaction was entirely different, though. That stroke lost Langer his match against Hale Irwin. This one won Langer his match against Brad Faxon and ensured that Europe would retain the trophy. In 1991, the Americans won by a single point. Yesterday, Langer's victory set up Europe's eventual triumph by the same score. 14½-13½.

"In Kiawah, I finished it off in a bad way," Langer said. "This week, I was fortunate enough to make the point that keeps the Ryder Cup in Europe." It was left to Colin Montgomerie to secure the half against Scott Hoch in the final match to give Europe outright victory.

The 1997 Ryder Cup will be remembered for many things: especially for eccentricities in the art of captaincy by Severiano Ballesteros that were perfectly captured by his announcement, in the moment of victory last night, that he would be standing down for the next competition: "It's for the simple reason that I would like to recover my game," he said. "I would really like to play in the 1999 match."

Other enduring memories were provided by the eclipse of Tiger Woods, the United States prodigy; by Europe's victory that went against much of the accepted wisdom; and by Nick Faldo's collection of individual records. It will be remembered for torrential rain that twice caused play to be delayed, for the emergence of a new generation of players from Europe, men like Ignacio Garrido, 25, Jesper Parnevik, 32, Lee Westwood, 24, Thomas Bjorn, 26: men who, in these three days, outshone the young lions of American golf — Woods, Phil Mickelson and Justin Leonard.

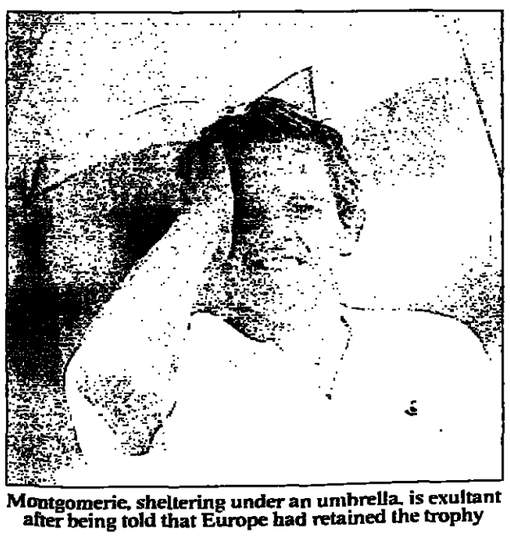
Not the least significant statistic is the closeness of the competition. Though Europe led 10½-5½ before the start of the singles, there were moments during a thrilling last afternoon when it looked as though they might snatch victory. This contest is almost perfectly balanced now and has been since the Americans won so handsomely in 1981. In seven of the past eight Ryder Cups, the margin of victory has been less than two points.

Perhaps, though, the 1997 Ryder Cup will be remembered for demonstrating those sporting virtues that golf is meant to stand for: manners and sportsmanship, decorum and grace under pressure. It was a hard-fought contest that went to the limits of sportsmanship, but not beyond. In the end, when one man held up the trophy as the winner and the other as the loser, Ballesteros was magnanimous in victory and Tom Kite, his United States counterpart, was gracious in defeat.

It was a victory fashioned by Ballesteros in his own manner. He plotted it and achieved it in a fashion that was as uniquely his as was that miraculous stroke he played with a four-wood from his knees in a tournament earlier this month. He was in tears when his team paid tribute to him last night. Moments later, he was summoned to a telephone to receive a call from the King of Spain.

"As you know, I am a pretty much a senior member of this side," Langer said. "It is a team event that makes great partnerships and creates friendships. To me, this is more important than the number of points that are won or lost."

"I am 40 now and you know the first thing that starts to go at that age is the memory." But it will be a long time before Langer forgets the part he played in this famous victory and, come to that, the part his putter played as well.



Montgomerie, sheltering under an umbrella, is exultant after being told that Europe had retained the trophy



Langer allows himself a smile after seeing his winning putt stop near the hole on the 17th green. Photograph: Jamie Squire / Allsport

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Ballesteros moved to offer Europe hand of inspiration . . .



Ballesteros in celebration

Rob Hughes on the spirit that brought together two men from the opposite end of the golfing spectrum in the drama unfolding at Valderrama

For those who simply stand and stare, the final hour of the Ryder Cup is proof beyond measure that sport is extraordinary, that the beauty in man's nature can mean more than winning or losing and, indeed, can cross the Atlantic like nothing on earth.

At 5.05pm yesterday, the ferocious storm revisiting Valderrama, we witnessed Thomas Oliver Kite Jr, the not-yet vanquished United States team captain, catch up, perhaps for the first time during the weekend, with Severiano Sota Ballesteros, the hyperactive Spaniard. The Texan shook the hand of the Europe captain; Kite also playfully punched his opponent in the ribs and then, with words whispered so close that he could almost have kissed the cheek of Ballesteros, he sincerely congratulated the European on denying his life's dream — and there is supposed to have been enmity between the two.

They, of course, had only *willed* the hours, the days of triumph and despair. They could not hold an iron, merely attempt to transplant iron into the competitive soul of their chosen men. The wrath of the weather, soaking everyone through to the skin, was unabating and few seemed to notice it in the ecstasy and the agony, the pride that America, in the closest defeat, surely ought to share. For they, under the unobtrusive Kite, had come back relentlessly in the singles from the moment Fred Couples demolished Ian Woosnam by eight holes with only seven left to play.

"*Me siento fenomenal*," as England's magnificently stoic rookie, Lee Westwood, had said. Or at least, the Spanish had reported him as saying that; it translates to "it feels wonderful".

The players, of course, are the men who walked through the storm, had held their nerve when all about were losing theirs, had won or lost with a dignity one wished, probably irrationally, could be transmitted into other commercial sports. It bears repeating that the Ryder Cup affords no prize-money, no appearance-money to these already rich young sportsmen. They do it out of a compulsion, a pride in being asked, that began in 1927, long, long before any of them was born.

Yet Kite had the dignity, the warmth, to stand before the Andalucian arches of the golf club and to congratulate not only the victors, not only his own bravely beaten Americans, but to add: "To you, the fans, you were beyond enthusiasm and yet you showed fair play at all time to my players. That's all I can ask."

Ballesteros said: "This will go down in history because I am the first [non-British] captain and first man to win the Ryder Cup as a captain and a player. I knew the Americans were injured in the heart and they came out this morning with the idea of playing hard and they nearly took the cup away from us."

Beside Kite, Ballesteros, a man risen from a fishing village near Santander to the company yesterday of the thankful Spanish royal family, looked positively humble. Well he might. For days this man who became symbolised riding around in his buggy so that, seemingly, he could be everywhere at the one time.

It had seemed he trusted no one but himself, yet he emerged the victor. The players, from young Westwood to the Italian, Costantino Rocca, who defeated Tiger Woods, to the unsung Thomas Bjorn. The Dane had gone four down after the first four holes to Justin Leonard, yet emerged to

Continued on facing page

Battling display repels US charge

European union maintains the balance of power

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT VALDERRAMA

NEVER was the European community so united as on an exclusive golf course in southern Spain yesterday, when Europe's professional golfers withstood an heroic counter-attack by the United States to win the 1997 Ryder Cup by the slenderest margin, 14½-13½ — the same score as in 1995.

Valderrama's manicured acres, dampened by light rain for most of the afternoon, were well and truly doused for the third time in as many days a few minutes after five o'clock, and a little after Bernhard Langer won the point that made sure that Europe kept the trophy that had been captured so thrillingly at Oak Hill, New York, two years ago.

All praise to Tom Kite's men, who went so close to upsetting the five-point lead with which Europe began the singles matches on the final day. A side has never won from so far behind and probably never before has a group of men started so purposefully and so many men won so handsomely in a cause that was ultimately to be lost.

The United States, 10½-5½ down at the start of the 12 singles, launched an intense fightback. Fred Couples equalled the biggest victory in singles in this competition in trampling Ian Woosnam, 8 and 7. Couples, with no sign of an injured back nor of the poor golf he had played in the foursomes that were completed yesterday morning, raced to the turn in 30 strokes. He birdied the 10th and went to seven under par with another birdie at the 11th to dispatch Woosnam.

Mark O'Meara stood no nonsense from Jesper Parnevik, who was previously unbeaten, and won 5 and 4. Tom Lehman crushed Ignacio Garrido, the rookie whose heroics in the two previous days had done so much for Europe's cause. Garrido was the last man out, but was no match for the 1996 Open champion and was given the proverbial dog licence, defeat by 7 and 6.

In the end, though, it was the performances of a quintet of men from different countries that ensured that the handsome golden trophy remained in Europe — the first time that Europe have won it in successive matches. They were a Swede, an Italian, a Dane, a German and a Scot.

Per-Ulrik Johansson, a Swede who lives only a few miles down the coast from here and has played this course more than any other team member, delivered Europe's first point. Buoyed on by blond men wearing brown T-shirts with "Parnevik and Johansson supporters" printed on the back, he was far too good for Davis Love III. It was Love's fourth match and his fourth defeat. He was the only American not to win a point.

RYDER CUP '97

Costantino Rocca brought home Europe's second point, the prized scalp of Tiger Woods, who could not match the consistency of the Italian. Rocca was embraced and had his ample cheeks pressed twice by Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain. : There were plenty of cheers, too. "Roc-ca, Roc-ca," was the chant heard again and again. Rocca seemed resigned in victory, as if he knew that the Woods he was playing in the rain was not the same man that he had competed alongside in the last round of the Masters at Augusta five *months* ago. "*He don't* play the proper game, I think," Rocca said, and you knew exactly what he meant.

Then came Thomas Bjorn, his back as straight as a guardsman's, to deliver a half-point entirely against the odds. Denmark's first Ryder Cup player was alleged to have been unhappy at being left out on the first day. If he was, then he chanelled any anger into remaining unbeaten on his debut. His fightback against Justin Leonard, the Open champion, who was four up after four holes, was monumental.

Ballesteros weighted his singles to put his heaviest hitters in the mid-to-late section to staunch any run of losses. This was just as well, because the destiny of the trophy teetered alarmingly for an hour. After Phil Mickelson had beaten Darren Clarke, who was by no means disgraced at losing to a man who twice chipped in for an eagle, Jeff Maggert, in inspired form, beat Lee Westwood.

By the time that Langer, of Germany, defeated Brad Faxon, Garrido had already fallen and Faldo, too. Two birdies by Faldo, on the 14th and 15th, were matched by Jim Furyk and, when Faldo missed a four-foot putt on the 16th, Furyk won 3 and 2.

It was left to Colin Montgomerie, winner of the European order of merit for the past four seasons, to halve with Scott Hoch and deliver the half-point that won the Ryder Cup for Europe. This is fitting. Montgomerie, a Scot, is the best golfer in Europe and one of the best in the world. If he moves to the United States next year to compete on their circuit, then it will be in the knowledge that he had left a pretty present by which to be remembered the length and breadth of his home continent.

"This is the first time in the history of the competition that every [Europe] player had won a point before the start of the singles," Ballesteros said. "*The entire team are heroes.*" Would he stand again as captain? Ballesteros was coy. For the time being, he, too, reigned as the King of Spain — and in the rain, as well.

EUROPE	P	W	L	H	Pts
Montgomerie	5	3	1	1	3½
Rocca	4	3	1	0	3
Langer	4	3	1	0	3
Olazabal	5	2	2	1	2½
Westwood	5	2	3	0	2
Faldo	5	2	3	0	2
Parnevik	4	1	1	2	2
Johansson	2	2	0	0	2
Garrido	4	0	1	3	1½
Bjorn	2	1	0	1	1½
Clarke	2	1	1	0	1
Woosnam	2	1	1	0	1

HOW THE PLAYERS PERFORMED

UNITED STATES	P	W	L	H	Pts
Hoch	3	2	0	1	2½
Couples	4	2	2	0	2
Mickelson	4	1	1	2	2
O'Meara	4	2	2	0	2
Janzen	3	2	1	0	2
Maggert	3	2	1	0	2
Lehman	4	1	1	2	2
Woods	5	1	3	1	1½
Faxon	3	1	2	0	1
Leonard	4	0	2	2	1
Furyk	3	1	2	0	1
Love	4	0	4	0	0



Rocca, who pulled off a surprise win against Woods, salutes the crowd after Europe's victory against the United States yesterday

Rocca returns to banish demons of The Belfry

Patricia Davies sees Italian flair extinguish the Masters champion's Ryder Cup ambitions

Costantino Rocca touched the stars at Valderrama yesterday with a fortissimo display of shotmaking that eclipsed Tiger Woods. It was a masterclass for the Masters champion.

Four years ago at The Belfry, Rocca was all over the back — and front — pages, castigated as the man who lost the Ryder Cup after a rocky finish against Davis Love III. Today, he should be hogging the headlines — perhaps even at home, in football-mad Italy — for all the right reasons.

Rocca, playing in his third Ryder Cup, was steadfast, immovable and seemingly imperturable. He won three points out of four and to claim his first victory in singles by bagging a Tiger, even one who has been burning a little less brightly in recent weeks, was the stuff of legend.

"I am without words," one Italian journalist said, with the sort of blissful expression not to be expected from a member of the Fourth Estate in such a state. It was that sort of performance. But journalists have a way with words and the Italian, wet, muddy and ecstatic, soon found plenty. "In our small country, there are 40,000 players, 200 courses and one Costantino Rocca. He is known all over the world, but only one in perhaps 20 Italians has heard of him. I hope this will change that."

It deserves to, for Rocca was inspirational. From the moment that he hit an eight-iron to five feet at the 1st and won the hole with a birdie, the Italian was the man in control. He went two up with a par three at the 3rd, where Woods failed to get up and down from the back of the green, and, swinging smoothly and economically, moved to three up with a birdie three at the 5th, where he again hit that eight-iron to three feet.

The crowd was going wild, but Rocca was in a cocoon of *concentration that enabled* him to ignore the mayhem that he was creating. "Rocca, Rocca, Rocca," they chanted everywhere he went, but he was a man apart, in every respect. He was clad all in navy — the rest of his teammates were wearing white shirts — because he had not changed the lucky shirt that had seen him and José María Olazábal complete a famous foursomes victory against Love and Fred Couples in the morning. Resuming on the 8th one up, the Europeans won the first three holes and closed out the Americans with birdies at the 13th and 14th.

When he was in trouble, Rocca would conjure up a piece of magic of the sort so often associated with Severiano Ballesteros, the ubiquitous team captain. The Italian did it at the 7th and again at the 9th, where he holed from 12 feet to go four up as Woods, who had also missed the green, missed a putt of five feet. No wonder Antonella, Rocca's wife, had no fingernails to paint in red, white and green.

Ballesteros popped up at the 16th, where Rocca, three up, had driven into the trees on the right, in what looked like position Z. Ballesteros, of all people, counselled caution, then left his man alone.

Woods, from the middle of the fairway, played first and, and as he had done for most of the day, missed the green, if *only just*.

Rocca, taking his inspiration from Ballesteros the player and ignoring Ballesteros the adviser, hit a one-iron low under and around the trees. He had to bend it 20 yards from left to right and it ended up just on the fringe at the back of the green. The chanting lasted until Rocca reached his ball and started again when he nearly holed his chip. Woods took five and European joy was unconfined.

Four years ago, Ballesteros had sought out Rocca to console him in defeat and promptly burst into such floods of tears that the roles were reversed. "Vale, vale. Is okay, Seve, is okay."

There were more tears yesterday, but it was more than just okay. It was *bellissima*.

Rookie band earns badge of courage

FROM MEL WEBB

THEY came, they saw, and they grew up. Fast. They were the virgin soldiers, wheeled in for their square-bashing. Like raw recruits everywhere, they made some mistakes. But when they were called to the colours, they responded like heroes. They were the rookies, and they did Europe proud.

Five of Europe's team for this match were playing in the competition for the first time, and nothing in golf prepares you for the nerves, the trepidation, the sheer terror of playing in the Ryder Cup. That is what makes it unique.

Jesper Parnevik was the eldest of them, but that did not help him a scrap. He has been plying his trade in the United States for four years, and he *plays weekly — and successfully* — for million-dollar purses. There is nothing to be earnt for playing in the Ryder Cup, but the prize is greater than mere money.

The others — Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn, Ignacio Garrido and Darren Clarke — came into the match even less prepared than Parnevik. Their base is still Europe, where a man can learn to play the game but will never grow rich, not stinking, mega-bucks, Greg Norman-like rich.

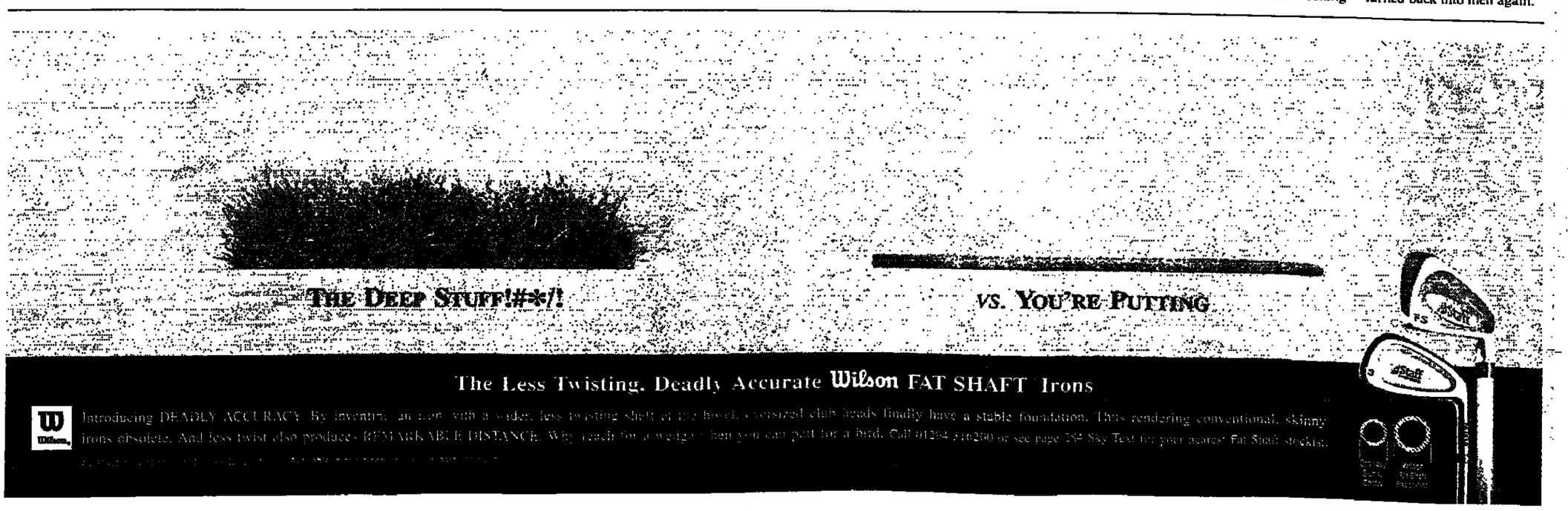
And anyway, what is money? Money does not produce the heartfelt thanks of the golfers of an entire continent. You play in the Ryder Cup for nothing, but that does not mean that the sacrifice you make in the adrenalin-rushing atmosphere of this competition will come cheap.

Disregard their scores. They contributed much, from Parnevik and Westwood, who won two points apiece, to Clarke, who in picking up one failed to win the Ferrari his sponsors promised him if he won two. To judge by the ear-to-ear grin that Clarke was wearing as he brandished the cup aloft, fast and exotic motor cars were about the last things on his mind last night.

Westwood partnered Nick Faldo in all four matches on the first two days, and he rose to the responsibility not like an apprentice but like a seasoned tradesman. This was no one-way deal. Yes, it was felt that the inspirational Faldo might bring out the best in Westwood, but you do not get to play with people like him unless it is felt that you can win matches with him.

Westwood did, twice, and did not run out of steam until the latter stages of his singles defeat by Jeff Maggert. He is a good 'un, and will be back again and again. So will Bjorn. He played twice, and was heroic in his halved match with Justin Leonard.

Garrido was undefeated until he ran into a rampant Tom Lehman, and Clarke battled all the way against Phil Mickelson. Both lost, but both learnt more in three days than they could ever hope. They marched to a triumphant beat last night: men who had become boys and were then turned back into men again.



. . . as Kite embraces united state of humility

Continued from page 30

halve their personal contest, to finish all square and to establish that Europe would not be beaten.

With the Americans gutsing it out, pushing to the very limits of heart and nerve and sinew, the Europeans had to be men indeed. And so did their captain. The moment he realised that his team might finally triumph, he was inevitably at the controls of his buggy. His passengers were his wife, Carmen, Jaime Patiño, who owns the course, and Ken Schofield, who directs the PGA European Tour.

Such a disperate group, such shared joy, such overt human joy in a small and unpretentious gold trophy that cost its founder, Samuel Ryder, £450. And if still they play for nothing, the commercial circus around it is worth hundreds of millions.

The experience will never leave Ballesteros. He came from a village where he was, in childhood, forbidden to use the course so, naturally, he grew into Spain's master golfer.

He was paid to teach the daughter of the richest billionaire in the land and, while that family scoffed at the thought of this young man of common background marrying one of their aristocrats, he wooed and wed Carmen. Winning the Ryder Cup visibly took him to extremes neither of those feats had done before.

We watched Ballesteros, always more willing to be seen by 700 million television viewers than the discreet Kite. It was a turbulent ride. We doubted him, we rose to him, we became volatile like him . . . and along the way, in three ultra competitive days, we saw the vivacity drain from his features. I swear there are flecks of grey in the black hair that were not there the day before.

By comparison, Kite appears this morning what he was when he arrived, unruffled and bespectacled. He said the pain runs deep, but in the manner of accepting defeat, in the untainted pride in a contest properly run, perhaps Kite, rather than Ballesteros, is truer to the spirit of sportsmanship. He lost, but he would not yield: perhaps he failed to summon the words, or to make a show of being everywhere and everything to his professional adult players, yet he gave them room to breathe, trusted them and how would we know if, man to man, his was a less inspirational quality than the Spaniard's?

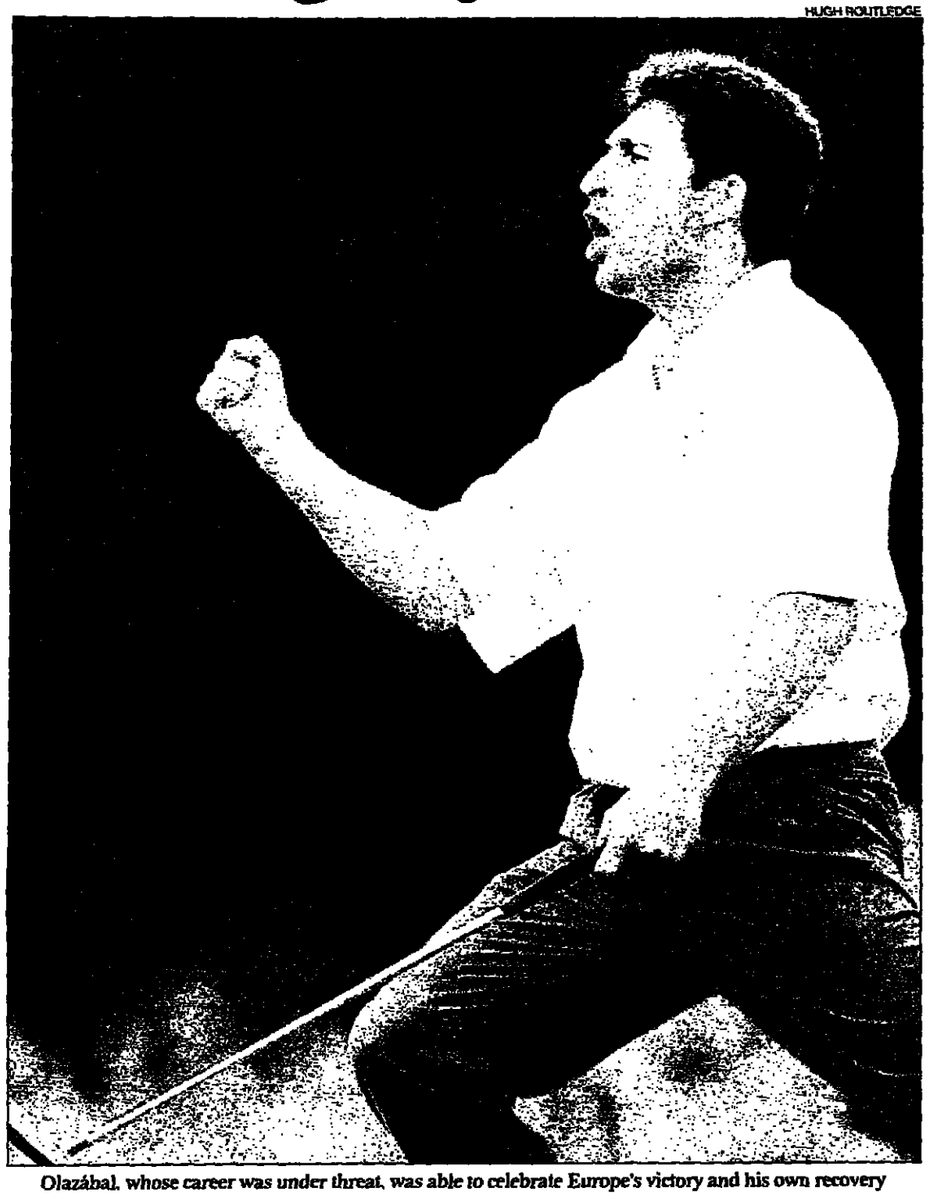
But the pulse goes on. Yesterday lunchtime, as Ballesteros hurried to be at the side of Woosnam when Couples was wounding him, a toddler stumbled on the cart track right in front of his buggy. He stopped, stretched languidly over the controls and waited. At once two older children pounced, asking him to sign their hats. Like all of us, like Kite, they had probably waited all week to tie the restless spirit down.



Kite cannot hide his dismay

Michael Calvin on the tears of a player who could triumph in defeat

Olazabal's agony ends in ecstasy



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Olazábal, whose career was under threat, was able to celebrate Europe's victory and his own recovery

José María Olazábal, like many Spaniards, has implicit faith in *destino*, the sense that his fate is preordained. As he strode on to the 17th green at Valderrama yesterday afternoon, the symmetry of the moment suggested that he was being guided by an unseen hand.

The Ryder Cup was his to win on the hole that embodies the quixotic nature of its designer, his friend and compatriot, Severiano Ballesteros. A year after he had reached his lowest point, when he was reduced to shuffling across his living room on his knees, he was walking into history.

The Basque flag flew in his honour and the natural amphitheatre echoed to the chant of "*Olé, Olé, Olé*", the adopted football anthem that captured the raucous informality of the occasion. Olazábal closed his eyes, pinched the bridge of his nose between thumb and forefinger and then settled over the 20-foot putt that seemed to have only one possible outcome.

The ball curled gently, kissed the left edge of the hole, but stayed out. This was a fairytale that would remain unwritten, a morality play with an unsuitable conclusion. Lee Janzen holed his birdie putt, of similar length, and then won their singles match on the final hole. The roar that interrupted Olazábal's haphazard progress down the last signalled that the fates had a greater debt to Bernhard Langer.

Olazábal was momentarily nonplussed, but once it became clear that the German had seized the moment he had been denied and secured the point that ensured the Cup would be retained, individual misfortune ceased to matter. He embraced his parents and threw himself into the ecstatic scrum that submerged Colin Montgomerie when he secured outright victory 30 minutes later.

Olazábal was soaked to the skin, but did not care. He clamped the head of Costantino Rocca in his calloused hands, leapt up and down and screamed indecipherable compliments in the Italian's weatherbeaten face. "Unbelievable! Unbelievable!" he repeated in a mantra that was to become familiar as the night wore on.

His mother kept guard, vainly attempting to shield her son from the storm with an umbrella. She is a small, elegant lady, who has given him more than a strong nose and warm, brown eyes. She has imbued a sense of belonging, a sense of perspective that enabled him to survive 17 months out of the game.

This time last year, the stomach-knotting tension of the Ryder Cup was the last of Olazábal's worries. He faced a future in a wheelchair. He was crippled by rheumatoid polyarthritis in three joints in his right foot and two in his left. The talent that made him the Masters champion was being slowly undermined by human frailty.

Those close to him, bound to the roots of the farming community based on the Feunterrabia club in San Sebastian, stayed loyal. His manager, Sergio Gomez, a former cutlery salesman, shielded him from prurient attention: his family, led by his father, a former greenkeeper at the club, closed ranks.

They had bred a pleasant, well-rounded young man. Olazábal is not bound by the one-dimensional conventions of professional sport. To most players, Valderrama may be merely a fiendishly difficult golf course, but, as a keen conservationist, he recognises its significance as a site of special ecological interest.

The work ethic, drilled into him from childhood, acquired additional relevance when he was reprieved by the German doctor, Hans Müller-Wohlfart, who detected that his problems had been caused by a growth at the base of his spine. He returned to tournament golf in Dubai in March and won within three weeks in his native Spain, but at the start of the Cup his comeback had spanned only 54 competitive rounds.

It was still dark yesterday when he began his most significant day's work. He emerged onto the practice ground soon after Rocca, his partner in the unfinished four-ball, and worked on his swing during a soft, strangely colourless dawn. It paid off, because they won four successive holes before the silver carpet of dew had evaporated and eventually defeated Fred Couples and Davis Love III 5 and 4.

There was an unaccustomed jauntiness to his rolling, slightly awkward, stride. He waved regally to the galleries as he genuflected before the timelords by rushing to see Ignacio Garrido halve his foursome. There was a real tenderness in his embrace of the young man who is destined to succeed him as the standard-bearer of Spanish golf.

'The moment seemed his, but the golfing gods had one last joke to play'

However, the price of being asked to play five matches by Ballesteros was acute, if invisible. His feet were sore. His shins ached. He had not slept well, but he was driven by the memories of private agonies, endured over long, apparently endless days in isolation.

"All the way José!" yelled a voice that owed more to Southend than Santander. He was more receptive to such exhortations as "*Vama, Chema!*", the phrase which followed him around the course like a faithful dog.

His constituency extended from schoolgirls in their Sunday best to their proud grandfathers. They will understand the simple emotions which consumed him two hours after the Cup had been won.

"This is very special to me," Olazábal said. "A year ago I couldn't walk." He stopped, bowed his head and wept. He was roused by the spontaneous applause of his teammates and he continued, haltingly: "I am just proud to be here, to be part of this wonderful team. I will never forget it."

The gods may have their little jokes, but at least they have not forgotten José María Olazábal.

Woosnam's ambitions uncoupled

LYNNE TRUSS

The first rule of matchplay for a sedentary golf spectator, I now realise, is to select your spot with care. No point camping out with a picnic at the crowd-pleasing 17th hole at Valderrama, for example, when match after match may be decided (and thus finished) before the galleries are even within earshot. "What's happening now?" they must have asked out at that hole yesterday for the first four hours of the singles matches. "Woosie, Woosie, where are you?"

Meaning no offence by it, Woosie didn't make it to the 17th yesterday; his match was decided, for heaven's sake, on the 11th. "Pub time, Woosie," an unkind American jeered as Woosnam squared up to his third shot on that fatal hole. And pub time it nearly was. Matched against an inspired Fred Couples and picked only once by his captain in the previous two days, he had recorded two bogeys, one birdie and seven pars to reach this point and was about to be beaten 8 and 7 (thus equalling a record from 1989, when Tom Kite thrashed Howard Clark). What a cruel game golf is. Anyone with a brain will always say so.

So Couples turned out to be an excellent choice to lead the underachieving Americans into the singles. They required a blistering success and they got it, with Couples playing the first nine in an outstanding and beautiful 30. In the second day's fourballs and foursomes, he'd been beaten twice — and out of four Ryder Cup singles matches, he'd been successful in only one. But to judge by the result yesterday, none of this bad record had been taken to heart.

"Golf is meant to be easy," he said yesterday in the aftermath of triumph. "Today is was pretty easy. We've been losing a lot of matches this week on the 17th and 18th, but we are still holding our heads up. We're doing OK."

Did that man say golf was easy? Easy for him, anyway. Parring the first three holes, he then hit a magnificent stride of birdies after eagling the par-five 4th as if it were a pitch and putt. Driver, sand wedge, 15-foot putt; wanna see that again? At the 163-yard 6th, his eight-iron tee-shot took him to four feet from the hole. At the 9th, he sank a putt of 40 feet.

It's a tribute to the Welsh temperament in general that Woosnam at no point indicated a desire to take his own life, because the point is, by score alone, Woosnam was doing okay. The shock of the defeat must have been all the more considerable. In his previous Ryder Cup matches against Couples, in 1993 and 1995, the result was a halved match. This time, however, the hapless Woosnam caught the full force of an American comeback, inspired by a pep-talk from the former president, George Bush, so suitably resembling the moment in *Independence Day*, when the United States' leader decides to stop pussy-footing around. No wonder he looked powerless against it. "USA, USA: Freddie. Freddie, Freddie," the crowd chanted, out of which came the lone encouraging cry "Have a fag, Woosie", which was probably more well-intentioned than it sounds.

Luckily for the Europeans, no other Americans emulated Couples in exact, swingeing detail, but his influence was supremely obvious on the rest of the singles matches. At the time, however, he had no idea how close the result would be. His comments after the match seem in retrospect almost foolish in their modesty and restraint. "Woosie got beat pretty badly, but at the end of the day, if the Europeans win, I am sure he'll enjoy it as much as anyone. The Europeans are just playing so well."

To be fair, it wasn't Ian Woosnam's week. Let's hope his early and horrible capitulation did not discourage the others. At the end of this Ryder Cup, he can look back on one pleasant fourball success (with Thomas Bjorn, beating Justin Leonard and Brad Faxon) and one complete nightmare. The best thing, about matchplaying nightmares, though, is that the worse they are, the sooner they are over. And I have to say, he didn't look at all unhappy to shake hands on the 11th and call it a day.

Women's world, page 33

Presidential presence fails to make a decisive difference

FROM JOHN HOPKINS

He sat on a Ryder Cup cushion on the bank by the 17th green with his legs hunched up in front of him so that he had to peer out between his knees. He was laughing and talking and he kept saying that all he wanted was to be able to cheer an American victory.

This was George Bush, the former president of the United States, but it might have been any old George. He was just a 73-year-old golf enthusiast with a white golf shirt, white trousers, speckled with mud, and black, spikeless golf shoes. He wanted nothing so much as to be able to clap his hands and yell out in support for his countrymen as they entered the bearpit that was the 17th hole at Valderrama.

At the start of this middle afternoon, the Americans led in three matches and were level in the fourth, but by the time the matches reached the 17th green, it had all changed. Colin Montgomerie birdied to go one up against Fred Couples and Davis Love III. Then Thomas Bjorn, partnered by Ian Woosnam, clinched the match against Justin Leonard and Brad Faxon.

All the while, Bush talked openly and laughed and joked to well-wishers and autograph seekers. "Mr President, would you mind signing this?" "Sure thing." "Mr Bush, could I have my picture taken with you?" "Of course, come right in." A Danish journalist stuck a programme in front of him and asked about his golf. "At my best, my handicap was 11, so occasionally I had a round in the mid-70s," Bush said, "but now I'll give you the answer in two words. It stinks."

Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara could bring him no joy. Woods, going for an eagle from the back of the green, overhit his putt into the water. Faldo's four was good enough to give Europe its third point of the morning and the second won on that green.

Now only one match remained on the course. Bush noted with pleasure that Tom Lehman and Phil Mickelson were one up on José María Olazábal and Ignacio Garrido. Melissa Lehman and Amy Mickelson came to crouch down alongside Bush. "Slide on in, girls," he said as they took up their places either side of him.

From far down the fairway, Mickelson's superb shot to within ten feet of the hole brought a roar from Bush. This was followed by an almost equally good shot, Garrido's explosion from a bunker at the back of the green down the sloping putting surface. The hole was halved, the match level.

Bush stood up, gathered up his papers and hustled off to follow them on to the 18th. Friendly to the end, he shook the hands of those he had just been sitting with. He had once led the most powerful nation on earth and been able to authorise men to go to the moon and into battle. Not even former presidents can ordain matters on a golf course, however. He had not, after all, been able to cheer an American victory at the 17th.



Living in hope: the Bushes offer support

Victory foundations laid

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SATURDAY, September 27, will go down as one of Europe's greatest days in the era of this competition that started in 1979. Arguably, it was the greatest, though that would mean it would have exceeded their victory at The Belfry in 1985, their stunning triumph at Jack Nicklaus's course in Dublin, Ohio, two years later and their come-from-behind victory at Oak Hill two years ago.

It began with another rain delay and only ended when darkness settled over the course 11 hours later. The score had been 3-3 at the start; Europe led 9-4 at the end. Two foursomes remained on the course in the morning: Nick Faldo and Lee Westwood against Justin Leonard and Jeff Maggert, and Ignacio Garrido and Jesper Parnevik against Tom Lehman and Phil Mickelson. Westwood holed a six-foot putt to finish off the Americans on the 16th — his first stroke of the day — while Garrido and Parnevik scrambled a half.

Then the fun started. There was no need to hold back and nobody did. There were 45 birdies and two eagles on greens that had been slowed by rain. If the matches had been over nine holes, the Americans would have won comfortably, but over the homeward half, the longer and more difficult, Europe pulled ahead or got back to level in each match.

They won the top four-ball match by one hole, the next two by 2 and 1 and snatched a half in the fourth. "Europe played the back nine much better than we did," Tom Kite, the United States captain, said. "They severely outputted us, there is no question about that."



Westwood: first blood

There were moments of true competition, with no quarter asked and none given. When Phil Mickelson's putt for an eagle on the 17th reared away from the edge of the hole, it looked so close that it would surely be conceded by José María Olazábal and Garrido, but Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, whispered in Garrido's ear: "If Phil misses, make him putt."

"That's all right," Lehman said later of the two-foot putt. "I would have done the same thing." Later, after Olazábal and Garrido had ensured a half, Lehman said: "My hats off to the Europeans. When one guy is in the tank, the other one makes a birdie. That's important and they're doing it."

"This is probably the best day for European golf ever," Colin Montgomerie said, "and we've had a lot of great days in European golf." Montgomerie spoke for a lot of people when he said: "This is a day I will always remember, a day I will always relish."

HOW THE CUP WAS WON

Some matches were completed a day late due to the weather

FRIDAY

Fourballs
Olazabal/Rocca bt Love/Mickleson 1 hole
Faldo/Westwood lost to Couples/Faxon 1 hole
Parnevik/Johansson bt Lehman/Furyk 1 hole
Montgomerie/Langer lost to Woods/O'Meara 3 and 2

Result: Europe 2 United States 2

Foursomes
Langer/Montgomerie bt O'Meara/Woods 5 and 3
Olazabal/Rocca lost to Hoch/Janzen 1 hole
Faldo/Westwood bt Leonard/Maggert 3 and 2
Parnevik/Garrido halved with Lehman/Mickelson

Result: Europe 2½ United States 1½
Overall: Europe 4½ United States 3½

SATURDAY

Fourballs
Montgomerie/Clarke bt Couples/Love 1 hole
Woosnam/Bjorn bt Leonard/Faxon 2 and 1
Faldo/Westwood bt Woods/O'Meara 3 and 1
Olazabal/Garrido halved with Lehman/Mickelson

Result: Europe 3½ United States 1½
Overall: Europe 8 United States 4

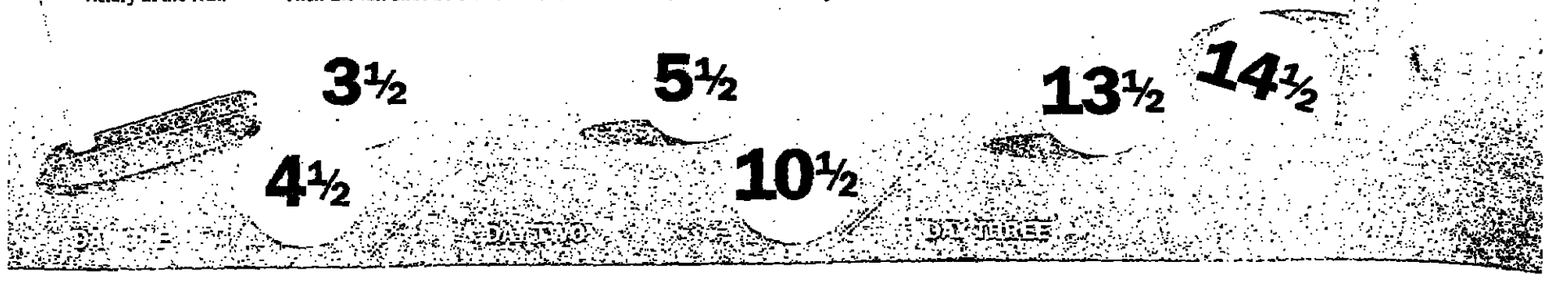
Foursomes
Montgomerie/Langer bt Janzen/Furyk 1 hole
Faldo/Westwood lost to Hoch/Maggert
Parnevik/Garrido halved with Leonard/Woods
Olazabal/Rocca bt Love/Couples 5 and 4

Result: Europe 2½ United States 1½
Overall: Europe 10½ United States 5½

SUNDAY

Singles
Woosnam lost to Couples 5 and 7
Johansson bt Love 3 and 2
Rocca bt Woods 4 and 2
Bjorn halved with Leonard
Clarke lost to Mickelson 2 and 1
Parnevik lost to O'Meara 5 and 4
Olazabal lost to Janzen 1 hole
Langer bt Faxon 2 and 1
Westwood lost to Maggert 4 and 2
Montgomerie halved with Hoch
Faldo lost to Furyk 3 and 2
Garrido lost to Lehman 7 and 6

Result: Europe 4 United States 8
Overall: Europe 14½ United States 13½





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Sky clouds the raw beauty of live action



SIMON BARNES

TV ACTION REPLAY

Suffering fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours — which is exactly what I have been doing over the past weekend. I have been watching the Ryder Cup on television, the camera moving from one fraught face to the next, time passing from one anguished moment to another. Golf is not everybody's favourite sport, certainly not mine, but hour after hour of wall-to-wall suffering is utterly compelling.

When discussing Sky's coverage of the Ryder Cup — when discussing Sky's coverage of absolutely anything — it seems churlish, almost nitpicking to talk about quality. Indeed, to talk about quality is more or less to miss the point. What Sky is good at — unbeatable at — is quantity.

Taking on a big event like the Ryder Cup, one that sprawls across endless hours of daylight, it does what no terrestrial channel can ever do. It dedicates an entire channel to the event. You need never fear that *Songs of Praise* will interrupt Monty as he frowned over the dodgy four-footer.

And when it comes to quantity, Sky really out-Skyed itself this weekend. Every hole of the golf course was covered by the cameras, with 44 of them turned to the action. Sport is what television does best and live action from big sporting events is the very essence of modern television. It is also in the forefront of everybody's minds as they consider the heady implications of the digital revolution.

So two cheers for Sky for bringing us sport in such quantities. The off-switch is ours to command — live action is there if we want it and can pay for it. But there is that little niggle about, well, quality.

Sky has so much live action it has almost ceased to believe in it. Live sporting action is the best thing that television can do: Sky insists, over and over again, and in the Ryder Cup and in any event it covers, in tarting it up. If it had Botticelli's Venus, it would not be happy until it found her a nice frock.

Saturday afternoon and the end of the fourballs, with four suffering golfers. It was the American's hole, easy, but no — Olazábal holed a wonderful putt. Joy was unconfined and it left Lehman with a horrid little putt to save a hole that he had once seemed quite certain to win. This is the very essence of Ryder Cup golf. Slowly, he . . .

Well, I've no idea what he did, slowly or quickly. We had a long slow-mo of Olazábal punching the air. Then we had an even longer slow-mo of Seve standing up. Then — reluctantly — we cut back to live action. Lehman was already into his backswing. Tap. In. Thanks.

Thus we lost all the tension in the pursuit of gimmickry. Technology is, like the off-switch, our servant, not our master, but — rather like one of those sinister characters in Pinter — it is taking over at Sky. Sky has the jewels, the live action, but it has lost faith in their value.

So we have chat, interviews and so on, running over live action, so that we can neither concentrate on the talk nor the golf. Then, of course — reviewers tend to think it is rather ungentlemanly to point this out — endless repetition of advertisements that were fatuous enough in the first place. Cutting to them always, it seems, at points of greatest tension.

At the worst, you wanted to scream: "Get back to the action! Believe in what you've got!" The bias in favour of gimmickry was truly exasperating. It underlined Sky's basic insecurity, its lack of authority and, in groping for authority, again and again it fell back on it favourite salesman's pitch.

I learnt that this was a fantastic event. The players are fantastic. They play fantastic golf. The tension here is fantastic. Everything is fantastic, really. Yes, Richard, and out here on this fantastic course . . .

Stop selling me something I've already bought. I'm beginning to go off it. If you keep telling me how good it is, I shall start wondering what's wrong with it. Sky has lost faith in its own greatest asset, live action. Sky has lost faith in its viewers' ability to concentrate. Sky is like some disco Lothario, always sidling up, trying to seduce us. It forgets the fact that we are already in bed together and seeking to establish a meaningful relationship.

Am I being too rough with poor Sky? A little, yes, but I would not trouble if the jewels in Sky's possession were not beautiful, if the constant opportunity to help yourself to live sport was not one of the minor pleasures of modern life. But Sky must learn to have faith in the simple beauty of sport. Venus does not need a tarty frock.

☐ *Matthew Bond is away*

A manicured display of Ryder Cup women redolent of the nasty, misogynous world of golf clubs

The wives who will just have to go

LYNNE TRUSS



GILL ALLEN



European wives take their prominent places at Valderrama while, below, Mark O'Meara celebrates with his wife, Alicia, after securing a point for the Americans

Picture the scene. It is FA Cup Final day, five o'clock, and Wembley is all aroar in golden sun. "Chelsea, Chelsea," the jubilant crowd sings, while an ecstatic team in blue form victory lines to body-surf towards the touchline. The boys hug each other, grab funny hats from the fans, stooge idiotically with the silverware, squirt champagne. Provided you are not a Middlesbrough fan, all is exactly as it should be.

But what's this? All at once, a strange pitch invasion of blonde, suntanned women, dressed in a feminine variant of Chelsea garb. The mood falters. The music stops. Blimey, it's a March of the Wives, led by Ruud Gullit's girlfriend, hand in hand with Mrs Zola. Someone at the FA must have had the bright idea of copying a Ryder Cup tradition, but, unfortunately they've chosen the single tradition of this splendid sporting event that makes a lot of people cross their arms firmly against their chests and say: "Why do they do this? Every time? Why?"

It's a fine kind of doings, this wives business. Wives are everywhere you look. Wives seem sometimes to be all the event is about. Here at Valderrama, the telly coverage of each hole's closing moments (shown on jumbo screens around the course) is forever cutting to glossy, manicured female persons that we do not recognise but whom we assume to be Mrs Parnevik and Mrs Mickelson from their prominence and their expressions of prayer. "Good morning, wives!" a bright commentator on Radio Ryder Cup said. But why on earth should anybody care about these women? They are incidental to the competition, and a distraction from it. Worst of all, their sheer, bloody android decorativeness sums up everything that drives you mad about the gender politics of this otherwise excellent game.

There are lots of issues here. For one thing, the high visibility of a group called "the Wives" is suggestive more of corporate life than of sport. However, more than both, it is suggestive of the golf club, where phlegmatic grass widows drink gin, do the flowers, pat their scarves and combine only to complain (impotently) that the men won't let them wear trousers or play on Sunday.

The first time that I entered a golf club, a woman shook hands with me and demanded "Have you got a husband?", presumably because she knew I wouldn't be allowed to join without one. By evoking the nasty, misogynous world of club golf, the Ryder Cup probably undoes a lot of its work promoting the game to people whose political attitudes post-date 1945.

What other messages does it send out? Well, that these men are wimps who can't manage alone, perhaps? Or that they are wayward lotharios who need to be kept on the straight and narrow in more senses than the literal. Thirteen blokes mob-handed on the Costa del Sol, with nothing to do except play 36 holes a day? Say no more.

Last Monday night, I accompanied a photographer to the airport at Malaga to watch the American team arrive by Concorde and it was — up to a point — magical. Had the *Top Gun* theme, *Take My Breath Away*, been played over this scene of mighty bird silhouetted against sunset and mountains, it could hardly have been more impressive.



The door opened. Tom Kite appeared, with Phil Mickelson and Tom Lehman behind. I was so awestruck by the scene that I was fully prepared for them to descend the steps walking in slow motion. And then, I don't know, the magic skidded to a halt like an advert for Boddingtons — For, just like the air stewardesses they unaccountably dress themselves up to resemble, along came those annoying wives.

Perhaps the meet-the-wife syndrome is supposed to humanise the players, remind them they're not gods. Or perhaps it just ensures a supply of clean undies. This being a team event, you don't want the world to concentrate on the lonely grandeur of the individual sportsman but on his all-round good-guy qualities, even his skill at sustaining long-term relationships. Yet mixing up marital probity with sport is asking for trouble, especially in these cynical times. Look for the most famous Ryder Cup wife incident of recent years and it is Gill Faldo bravely supporting her man in the 1995 celebrations at the same time as he was betraying her, prior to the infamous dump.

This year, everyone knows Brad Faxon has marital troubles. Tiger Woods got off the plane on his own. Ho hum. Ho hum. I just couldn't care less. I am glad that Colin Montgomerie is married to a good-looking woman everyone speaks so highly of and who is allegedly a brilliant mind. I even like to picture them holding hands at Troon and skipping across the tufty grass in their youth. But I don't take my boyfriend with me to watch me write. I'd think it was demeaning for him, and a waste of his time (although, if I'm honest, the supply of clean undies wouldn't go amiss).

No, we are not interested in these wives and they will have to go. I truly believe that if you asked any spectator going 'round Valderrama which of a golfer's relationships interests them — wife or caddy — it's the one with the bag, not the handbag, they'd plump for, every time. Wives (why do they tolerate it?) are just there to pretty up proceedings and to keep the other women away. Casting the glamorous Mickelsons a glance at the Malaga reception, I heard "He's not available, lady" as loudly as if it had actually been spoken.

Because, finally, sex is a big and under-analysed factor in sport — and I don't mean the obvious business of wanting to see up a footballer's shorts. It's only when the sex is deliberately leached out of a game (as it is at the Ryder Cup) that you realise its importance. The simple fact is that sportsmen are attractive. Their bodies and skills are the subject of art. Women like watching handsome men play golf; men like watching handsome men play golf. But ask either sex to watch a married couple play golf and, as a turn-on, it would rank right up there with watching a married couple buy luggage.

Having those wives present themselves as a silent chorus at the Ryder Cup is only one step from the weekly trip to Tesco's. What a shame to have the cold-shower effect so often this weekend, when the golf action was among the most gripping ever seen.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Rugby referees and violence

From Mr Richard Greensted

Sir, "Rugby union", says Simon Barnes (September 22), "is an irredeemably violent game" and he blames it all on referees. His contention — "referees are as reluctant to punish violent offences as they are eager to leap on the pedantries of technical infringement" — is wide of the mark. Is he really saying that coaches and players have no responsibility for controlling and managing aggression? A good coach, and a good captain, can prevent the problem of violence before there ever has to be a remedy for it.

Every qualified referee in England fully understands the need to deal with foul play effectively and the vast majority discharge their duties incredibly well, week-in, week-out. The simple fact is that referees manage games to mitigate the potential for foul play, just as they are trained to do, but the onus remains first with the coaches and players. As in life, ignorance of the rugby laws is no defence.

Until the beginning of this season, referees were somewhat hampered in their efforts to deal effectively with foul play because, in certain circumstances, they had to determine that it was wilful. In effect, they were being asked to judge intent. However, that restriction no longer applies, since the word "recklessly" has been introduced to Law 26. If it's dangerous, you're off, regardless of whether you meant it or not. Some referee societies have borrowed the expression "zero tolerance". In practical terms, this means that there are no allowances made for foul and dangerous play — and who would argue with that?

More than anything else, players and coaches want consistency: they want to know that, wherever they play in England, referees will follow the same guidelines.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD GREENSTED,
(Hon Secretary, Metropolitan Surrey Society of Rugby Football Referees),
57 Canbury Park Road,
Kingston, Surrey.

Cricket's future

From Mr J. Edrich

Sir, The myopic parochialism of the county committees is unfortunate and misguided. If their objective is to protect and further the status of their clubs and increase the level of public interest, then they are missing a wonderful opportunity.

The function of county cricket should be to provide an attractive product of purpose and enterprise and replicate as closely as possible the intensity and pressure of Test cricket. For that to happen, more matches need to take place where the outcome is critical to both sides — for example, Kent against Yorkshire in the penultimate round of matches. In the final round, the only games where the teams were desperate to win were those involving Glamorgan and Kent.

The apparent fear of some clubs is that they would languish in the second division indefinitely. If those clubs would seriously start a season believing that they have no chance of finishing in the top three out of nine, then they are wasting their own and the public's time.

The fear of counties going out of business is unfounded. The MacLaurin committee has pledged the survival of the 18 clubs. Furthermore, a two-division championship would massively enhance the profile and interest attached to the game and, therefore, the potential revenue available, even to those in the second stratum.

Sport as an attraction depends upon high stakes being associated with winning or losing.

Three-quarters of the players wanted the change and one can only feel anger for the MacLaurin team that the central plank of their good sense was rejected and disappointment that our Test team will continue to suffer the handicap of too much complacent and meaningless preparation.

Yours faithfully,

JUSTIN EDRICH,
34, Newark Way,
Hendon, NW4.

Another way of assessing county cricket

From Mr E.C. Edge

Sir, I have compiled some comparative statistics on the contenders for this year's county championship. The table gives runs per wicket for and against and the difference between these two figures. Just as was the case last year (with Leicestershire), the figures for the actual champions (Glamorgan) are so much better than those of anybody else that they speak for themselves. For comparison, the table includes the 1996 figures for Leicestershire, taken from *Wisden*, as their similarity to Glamorgan's 1997 record is so striking.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD EDGE,
Laverton Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire.

		FOR			AGAINST			
		Runs	Wkt	Ave	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Diff
1	Glamorgan	7672	189	40.59	6870	259	26.52	+14.07
1	Leicestershire (1996)	8645	216	40.02	8135	316	25.74	+14.28
2	Kent	8444	257	32.86	8339	291	28.66	+4.20
3	Worcestershire	8380	257	32.86	8032	244	32.92	+9.19
4=	Middlesex	6888	227	30.34	6867	251	27.36	+2.98
4=	Warwickshire	8920	217	31.89	7078	254	27.87	+4.02
6	Yorkshire	7596	234	32.48	7579	242	31.32	+1.14
7	Gloucestershire	7424	254	29.23	7254	264	27.48	+1.75
8=	Essex	8578	265	32.27	7520	238	31.60	+0.78
8=	Surrey	7815	240	32.56	7056	219	32.20	+0.34
10	Leicestershire	7406	193	38.37	7474	213	35.09	+3.28
11	Lancashire	7696	222	34.67	7654	227	33.72	+0.95

Golf and 'dimple error'

From Mr N.M. Lindsay

Sir, The practice of individually marking golf balls to guarantee identification during fairway play was splendidly illustrated in the Ryder Cup 97 supplement (September 22). Many golfers will not be aware that judicious design and positioning of such marks will confer a small but measurable benefit on greens. This is achieved by using the mark to point along the line of putt and also to point to a preferred contact area on the dimpled surface of the ball.

Aligning a ball marking (such as the manufacturer's logo) along the line of putt is allowed under the rules of golf and is often recommended by teaching professionals. However, the extra benefit of using one's individual mark to locate a spot with the best dimple grouping is not generally known. My own research on this matter and my dialogue with golf ball manufacturers confirm that golf ball design experts are indeed well aware of the effect but are not motivated to advertise it.

The dimples on a golf ball are there to enhance the ball's flight characteristics and optimise the carry distance off a drive. Unfortunately, the dimples have an adverse effect on putting and can introduce errors sufficient to miss at 5ft in perfectly aligned and executed putts. Those worse-case errors are rare and occur when the putter face impacts exactly on the right or left edge of a large-diameter dimple. Hitting the left side of the dimple sends the ball to the right and *vice versa*. In practice, there is a random distribution of smaller errors due to the infinite possibilities of putter contact on different orientations and dimple sizes. The secret is to always select a group of small dimples and try to make certain that these are more or less centred on the ideal impact point.

Different brands of golf balls exhibit different degrees of error. The worst offenders are Surlyn-covered balls, used by most golfers. More expensive balata-covered balls perform better, because the covering is softer and distributes the putter impact more evenly. However, the "dimple error" with a good balata ball can lead to a missed putt at 8ft. It would be most interesting to know how the competitors at Valderrama replace their balls on the green.

Yours sincerely,

NORMAN LINDSAY,
19 Batchelors Way,
Amersham, Bucks.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow
Who will figure in the squad which Glenn Hoddle hopes will secure England's qualification for the World Cup finals?

Wednesday
European club football with Uefa Cup reports and the Champions League prospects of Manchester United and Newcastle.

Thursday
The first of 14 regional finals in *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge.

Saturday
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match, Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

EQUESTRIANISM

Corten sets unbeatable pace from the outset

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

A FORMIDABLE round by Stefan Corten on Helada brought Belgium a second successive win in the Speed Horse of the Year, the main event at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley yesterday. Corten, 34, the son of a mushroom grower from Diest, was the first rider in the 23-strong field and, despite stumbling before the last fence, finished in 45.36sec.

His fast and daring round was put into perspective when a succession of top partnerships, including François Mathey on Shurlands Governor, who won last year, failed to match his time.

John Whitaker, the winner of the Leading Showjumper of the Year on Heyman on Saturday, was almost two seconds slower than the Belgian on Virtual Village Randi. His younger brother, Michael, a winner earlier in the day, finished fourth on Elton.

It was left to Robert Smith, a member of Great Britain's bronze medal-winning team at the European championships this summer, to produce a serious onslaught on the Belgian's time. Riding his 1994 Foxhunter Champion, Senator Valentino — an appropriately dashing grey — he skimmed round the ten-fence course to finish within a whisker of the winning time in 45.39sec.

Corten, who learnt his trade at the yard of Peter Postelman, his compatriot, with whom he was based for 12 years, said the early draw had worked in his favour. "If I'm late on the class, I sometimes go too quick and have faults," he said. He also disclosed that Helada, a Dutch-bred mare, had been bought for only £1,500 five years ago.

Sammy Pharo's family is believed to have paid a six-figure sum last December for her outstanding pony, Colton Maelstrom, on which she gained a comfortable win in The Christy Championship for the leading junior showjumper of the year.

Pharo, 15, who won a team gold medal at the pony European championships and receives GCSE tutoring at home to fit in with her showjumping commitments, jumped off for the title with Christopher Leeming, on Huntsman's Turn.

After Leeming collected seven faults, Pharo needed only a slow, clear round to secure the title. "I knew I had won it two fences from home," Pharo said. "She's a very careful pony and she doesn't refuse."

Results, page 42

MOTOR RACING: FAMILY FRICTION IGNITES VILLENEUVE'S CHALLENGE FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Schumacher suffers brotherly shove

FROM RICHARD HOBSON AT THE NÜRBURGRING

THE initiative in the Formula One world championship swung dramatically and probably decisively at the Luxemburg Grand Prix yesterday when Michael Schumacher, in the hundredth race of his career, was accidentally shunted off the circuit at the first corner by his own brother. Jacques Villeneuve raced through to record his seventh win of the season, climb above his rival and establish a nine-point overall lead.

With just two races remaining, there is a strong chance that Villeneuve will secure the title at the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka in a fortnight. Victory here, after his success in Austria seven days earlier, has established a personal momentum, while the Williams-Renault team now leads Ferrari by 26 points in the constructors' championship.

"Whatever happens, I will have won more races so I just have to finish above Michael to win the championship. I feel great and I am sure Michael and the Ferrari team do not feel so good," Villeneuve said. Yet if he believes that fortune evens itself out in time, then he will not be complacent in the days ahead. Yesterday, everything went his way.

A thrilling start saw David Coulthard move from sixth on the grid to second and the crowd of almost 120,000 could barely have recovered breath before Giancarlo Fisichella, blocked on the inside, attempted to move to his left but instead pushed Ralf Schumacher, his Jordan-Peugeot team-mate, who in turn collided with Michael Schumacher. All three cars were forced on to the dirt, along with that of Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who could not avoid the mêlée.

Both of the Jordans were immediately out of the race, while Michael Schumacher pulled out two laps later, his damaged suspension too great a handicap. "In this situation, it is the worst thing that could have happened," he said. "I do not like to accuse anyone, but I did everything to get out of the incident and could not. It was an accident."

Fisichella absolved his colleague from blame while Ralf Schumacher, who sought out his brother as the race continued, added: "It was potentially quite dangerous, so I suppose we should be happy nobody was hurt. The consequences were very bad for our team and for my brother." Indeed they were and Ralf, to compound his unhappiness, was subsequently reprimanded by the stewards for crossing the track without the direction of the marshals.

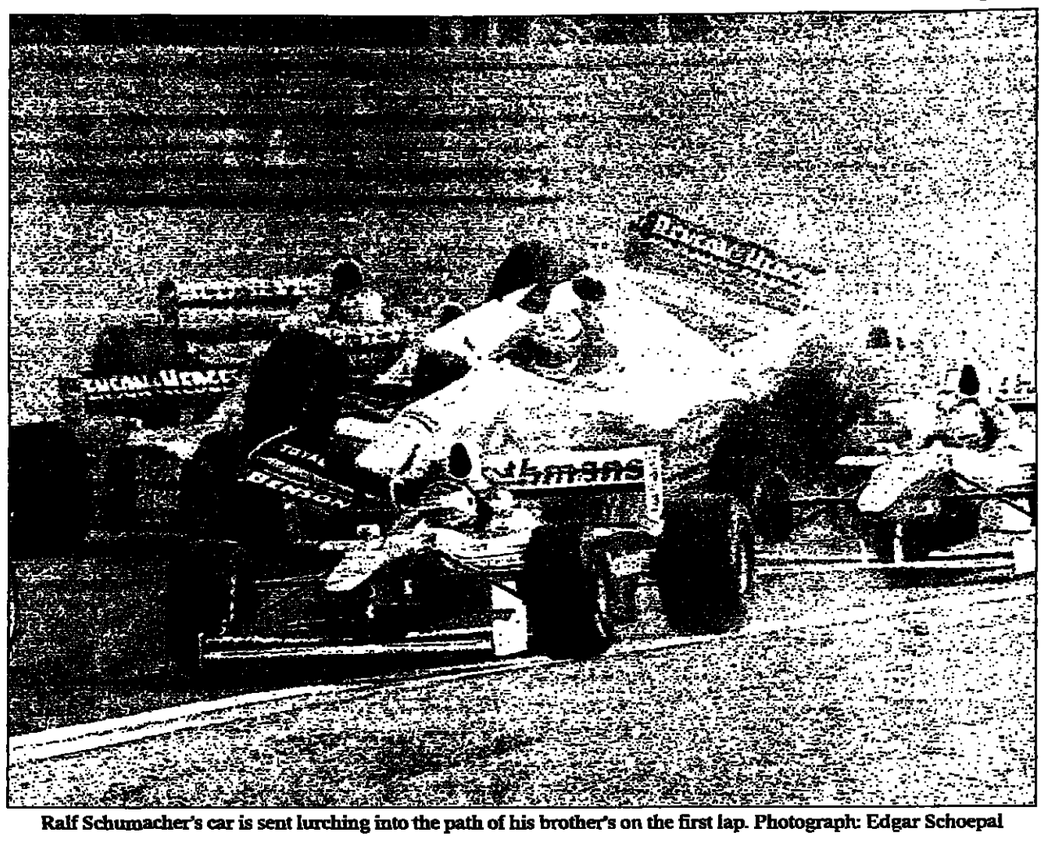
Villeneuve, aware of the accident, trailed both Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen, the Finn who started flawlessly from pole position. Not since 1954 has Mercedes-Benz been in a position to cheer one of their own drivers to the chequered flag on home soil — the Nürburgring being inside the German border — but with Hakkinen establishing a lead of 12 seconds and Coulthard, his McLaren team-mate, comfortably ahead of Villeneuve, their optimism was moving closer to reality by the lap.

Cruelly, however, those hopes were doused. At the same spot on the 42nd and 43rd laps, the engines of Coultard and Hakkinen blew. Hakkinen, 29 yesterday, has now succumbed to mechanical failure while strongly positioned in the past three grands prix.

"The two McLarens would have beaten me," Villeneuve said. "I was very surprised to see David next to me before I was in second gear at the start and we will have to see what we can do about that because they had more fuel on board as well."

Earlier in the week, Damon Hill had suggested that the greatest threat to Villeneuve came from within the Canadian's own mind. Villeneuve has the reputation of being impetuous, but from this position he could adopt a leisurely approach.

Jean Alesi, 11.77sec behind as runner-up, withstood the challenge of Frentzen, recovering strongly, while Olivier Panis finished sixth on his return to Formula One after breaking both legs in Canada. For Hill, though, this was an opportunity missed. In sixth place going into the pits for a tyre change after 36 laps, he stalled the Arrows-Yamaha, lost around 30 seconds and had to settle for eighth.



Ralf Schumacher's car is sent lurching into the path of his brother's on the first lap. Photograph: Edgar Schoepal

DETAILS

RESULT: 1. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1hr 31min 27.834sec; 2. J Alesi (Fr, Benetton) at 11.770sec; 3. H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 13.480; 4. G Berger (Austria, Benetton) 16.416; 5. P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 43.147; 6. O Panis (Fr, Prost) 43.750; 7. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 44.354; 8. D Hill (GB, Arrows) 44.777; 9. G Morbidelli (It, Sauber) at 1lap; 10. Mika Salo (Fin, Tyrrell) 1. Not classified (did not finish). 11. J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell) 50laps completed; 12. M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 43; 13. R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 43; 14. D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 42; 15. J Magnussen (Den, Stewart) 40, 16. E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 22; 17. S Nakano (Japan, Prost) 16; 18. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 2; 19. T Marques (Br, Minardi) 1, 20. U Katayama (Japan, Minardi) 1, 21. R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 0; 22. G Fisichella (It, Jordan) 0. Fastest lap: Frentzen 1min 18.805sec

QUALIFYING TIMES: 1, Hakkinen 1min 16.802sec; 2, Villeneuve 1:16.691; 3, Frentzen 1:16.741; 4, Fisichella 1:17.289; 5, M Schumacher 1:17.385; 6, Coulthard 1.17.387; 7, Berger 1.17.587; 8, R Schumacher 1:17.595; 9, Barrichello 1:17.614; 10, Alesi 1:17.620; 11, Panis 1:17.650; 12, Magnussen 1:17.722; 13, Hill 1:17.796; 14, Irvine 1:17.855; 15, Diniz 1:18.128; 16, Herbert 1:18.303; 17, Nakano 1.18.699; 18, Marques 1:19.347; 19, Morbidelli 1.19.490; 20, Salo 1:19.526; 21, Verstappen 1.19.531; 22, Katayama 1:20.615

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers': 1, Villeneuve 77pts; 2, M Schumacher 68;3, Frentzen 35; 4, Alesi 34; 5, Coulthard 30;6, Berger 24;7, Fisichella 20; 8, E Irvine 18; 9, O Panis 16; equal 10, Hakkinen, Herbert 14; 12, R Schumacher 13, 13, Hill 7, 14, Barrichello 6. 15, A Wurz (Austria) 4; 16, J Trulli (It) 3; equal 17, Salo, Nakano, Diniz 2, 20, N Larini (It) 1. Constructors': 1, Williams-Renault 112; 2, Ferrari 86; 3, Benetton-Renault 62; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 44; 5, Jordan-Peugeot 33, 6, Prost-Mugen Honda 21, 7, Sauber-Petronas 15; 8, Arrows-Yamaha 9; 9, Stewart-Ford 6, 10, Tyrrell-Ford 2

BASKETBALL

Jones buys himself some time with Giants

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE pressure on Manchester Giants to lift some silverware has probably had much to do with the club's tendency over the years of cutting Americans with almost indecent haste. According to David Lloyd, their new power forward, Jabaar Jones, will not be joining the exodus. Not yet, anyway.

The statistics for Jones over the Giants' first three games, all of which they lost, were anything but impressive, yet Lloyd, the assistant to the club's new coach, Jim Brandon, intimated yesterday that the 24-year-old New Yorker will have the chance of proving himself. "We are trying to work through the problems," he said after his team had recorded their first win of the season, 89-70 over Crystal Palace.

Jones's tally of ten points was hardly earth-shattering, but it was his highest yet. "He played better than in the first three games," Lloyd said. Manchester have some way to go to catch London Towers. The unbeaten leaders overcame Leicester Riders 99-77. Danny Lewis collected 18 points and Bob Donewald, the Riders' coach, managed to stay on court throughout. Two days earlier, he had created a league record with his expulsion after only 3min 16sec, for two technical offences, from his club's defeat against the Leopards.

The Leopards overwhelmed Watford Royals 121-87 with the help of 37 points from Eric Burks. Birmingham Bullets maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a narrow 69-67 win over Newcastle Eagles.

HOCKEY: ENGLAND FINISH FOURTH IN JUNIOR WORLD CUP AFTER LOSING PLAY-OFF TO GERMANY

Australia withstand India pressure to lift the trophy

AUSTRALIA won the Junior World Cup for the first time at Milton Keynes yesterday after a thrilling 3-2 victory against India in the final (Sydney Friskin writes). In the bronze medal play-off, Germany defeated England 4-2. England, by finishing fourth, recorded their best performance since the tournament began in 1979. They were fifth at Terrassa, Spain, in 1993.

Germany, who were sharper and more cohesive, led 3-0 at half-time with goals by Reinelt, Klink, from a short corner, and Eimer, with a strong reverse hit. Ebsworth was replaced in goal by Taylor a minute after the interval and the gloom deepened for England in the 39th minute, when Lunau-Mierke scored from a short corner.

Despite the temporary suspension of Evennett, the England defence began to steer a steadier course and the forwards moved more fluently. Simons, after 46 minutes, and Boyse, 20 minutes later, scored for England.

In the final, Australia recovered from a 17th-minute goal by Harbajan Singh to lead 2-1 at half-time with goals by Taylor and Elder.

The Australians were under siege in the second half and survived two short corners before Wells put them further ahead in the 51st minute. More short corners for India culminated in the 65th minute with a goal by Gurmail Singh. Earlier, they were unlucky to be denied a penalty stroke when Rajiv Mishra was brought down from behind inside the circle.

Nicholls strikes as Slough serve notice of intentions

SUTTON COLDFIELD again proved a happy hunting ground for Slough when a hat-trick by Mandy Nicholls helped the premier division champions to a 7-2 win (Cathy Harris writes). Slough now have six points and are level at the top with Ipswich, runners-up last year, who made the most of their limited resources to defeat Trojans 3-0 with goals by Vicky Sandall (two) and Lucy Youngs, their captain.

Nicholls, one of several past and present internationals at Slough, who are favourites to retain their title, struck in the fourth, twentieth and 69th minutes, with the other goals coming from her England team-mates, Karen Brown and Jane Smith, the Irishwoman, Sarah Kelleher, and the Scotland striker, Sue MacDonald.

The former England midfield player, Fiona Lee, helped Hightown avenge a humiliating 8-2 defeat at Doncaster last season when she scored both goals, her first for two years, to earn a 2-1 victory after Rachel Smart had drawn first blood in the fourth minute.

☐ England have been drawn in the same group as the hosts and South Korea, the Olympic silver medal-winners, for the World Cup finals in Utrecht next May. Scotland face Australia, the world and Olympic champions. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) also announced that England will host the women's Olympic Games qualifier in 2000.

POOL A: Australia, China, Germany, Scotland, South Africa, United States. Pool B: Argentina, England, India, Korea, Holland, New Zealand.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Okada breaks the Doohan dominance

MICHAEL DOOHAN'S run of ten successive victories in the 500cc world motorcycle championship was brought to an end in the Indonesian Grand Prix in Jakarta yesterday. Doohan, who is already assured of the world championship, was overtaken by Tadayuki Okada, his Repsol Honda team-mate, on the last lap and finished just 0.069sec behind.

Okada won his first grand prix in a time of 42min 22.010sec. Alex Criville, of Spain, also on a Honda, was third. Max Biaggi, of Italy, on a Honda, regained his championship lead with a win in the 250cc race. He had started third on points behind Ralf Waldmann, of Germany, and Tetsuya Harada, Valentino Rossi, of Italy, who received minor injuries in a car crash in Italy a week ago, won the 125cc race.

Obree stages double act

CYCLING: Graeme Obree completed a weekend winning double when he won the British Cycling Federation time-trial championship at Ripon yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). The previous day, the former world pursuit champion came within 9sec of his British ten-miles record of 18min 36sec when he won the Humberside CF Trial. Obree's championship success stopped Stuart Dangerfield from taking his third consecutive title.

Steelers struggle

ICE HOCKEY: The problems continued for Sheffield Steelers as they were held 3-3 by Ayr Scottish Eagles (Norman de Mesquita writes). They have now gone three games without a win and are certain to finish fourth in their Benson and Hedges Cup group, meaning that they will play Nottingham Panthers or Cardiff Devils in the quarter-finals. Nottingham beat Slough Jets 9-1 and Basingstoke Bison defeated their neighbours, Bracknell Bees, 6-2.

Third time lucky

BASEBALL: London Warriors, losing finalists for the past two years, beat Kingston Cobras, from Hull, in the Coors League national championship finals. They won the first game of the best-of-three series 11-5 on Saturday and clinched the title yesterday with a 31-12 victory. Chris Ackley, of the Warriors, whose contribution included a three-run homer, was named most valuable player of the series.

Crows win first crown

AUSTRALIAN RULES: Adelaide Crows won the Australian Football League grand final on their first appearance on Saturday. The Crows defeated St Kilda, of Melbourne, 19.11 (125) to 13.16 (94) before a crowd of 98,045 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Adelaide, who trailed by 13 points at half-time, led narrowly at three-quarter time and then booted eight goals straight.

SPEEDWAY

Bradford lift league title for first time

BY TONY HOARE

A REMARKABLE season in the Elite League reached a curious climax on Saturday night when Bradford clinched the title without even taking to the track. The Dukes' nearest challengers, Swindon, suffered their first home defeat of the season, against Coventry, and thus ensured that the title heads to Odsal for the first time in the club's history.

Bradford have set the pace in the league for most of the season, a series of comfortable away victories laying the foundations for their success. Swindon have been chasing for the past month, but a series of injuries and a fixture backlog finally caught up with them. The Wiltshire side finished a run of four matches in as many days yesterday and travel to Peterborough to complete their league campaign tomorrow night.

Swindon's league challenge has been based on solid home form, but, in a season in which away victories have been more common than ever, their unbeaten record at Blunsdon came to an end when they lost 43-47 to lowly Coventry.

For Allan and Bobby Ham, the former professional footballers who promote the Bradford side, it is the end of an 11-year title chase. They moved the old Halifax side to Odsal in 1986 and, after four seasons of struggle, the team has become one of the powers of the 1990s, even the league title has proved to be elusive. Away form had always been considered to be their greatest weakness.

Bradford will celebrate their title success in their final league match of the campaign, against Belle Vue at Odsal Stadium tomorrow night.

BOWLS

Women steer Ireland to team triumph

IRELAND won the inaugural European team championship in Guernsey on Saturday after beating mixed pairs from Holland 41-3 and Guernsey 28-16. (David Rhys Jones writes).

The Irish team, who won 13 of their 14 round-robin matches, were made up of two pairs, both skipped by promising 28-year-old women from Ulster.

Margaret Johnston, generally regarded as the best woman bowler in the world, led for Noel Graham, while Dorothy Kane, led well for Gary McCloy.

Wales took second place, four points behind, with Scotland third. England, after a series of disappointing displays, had to settle for fifth place behind Jersey. John Bell, of England, won the men's singles event and the Champion of Champions singles title.

SAILING

Cayard among early leaders

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT.

AFTER a week at sea, the leading boats in the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet were midway between Madeira and the Canaries yesterday, more than 1,500 miles down the track to Cape Town, with the Norwegian boat, *Innovation Kvaerner*, skippered by Knut Frostad, in the lead.

Frostad had a 13-mile cushion over Grant Dalton, in *Merit Cup*, who was just five miles ahead of the surprise performer, Paul Cayard, in *EF Language*.

Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, in *Silk Cut*, was 54 miles off the lead in fourth place, 13 miles ahead of *Chessie Racing*, skippered by Mark Fischer, who has been sticking to Smith for the last few days and has out-sailed him some of the time. Chris Dickson and his navigator, Andrew Cape, in *Toshiba*, who were punished for opting for a more easterly or inshore course after Cape Finisterre, were still 110 miles adrift of *Kvaerner*, having clawed their way back from a deficit of more than 140 miles.

With generally light and uneven conditions over the first seven days of racing, which included included squalls, thunderstorms and even a waterspout, there are few firm pointers as to which boats have the edge. Tactical decisions in unpredictable weather appear to have played the most significant role.

The first split in the fleet came just after Ushant, when the leading easternmost pack got away first as the breeze filled in from the land. This was effectively a restart and those who came off badly — *Toshiba*, *America's Challenge*, *Swedish Match*, *Brunel Sunergy* and the all-female crew in *EF Education* — have been playing catch-up ever since. By Saturday, the women, in last place, were 322 miles off the pace with the Dutch crew in *BrunelSunergy* not that much better off, 290 miles adrift.

☐ Mark Turner, of Britain, has made a good start to the 3,700-mile Mini-Transat single-handed transatlantic race from Brest to Martinique in *Carphone Warehouse*, the boat that he chartered two weeks ago after his own yacht developed structural problems. After one day at sea in a light north-easterly breeze, Turner was lying sixth in the 51-strong fleet.

RACE DETAILS

MILES TO FINISH (at Cape Town): 1, Innovation Kvaerner 5,757.1; 2, Merit Cup 5,766.1, 3, EF Language 5,771.1, 4, Silk Cut 5,803.8; 5, Chessie Racing 5,810.3; 6, Toshiba 5,858.6; 7, America's Challenge 5,959.8; 8, Swedish March 5,963.3, 9, Brunel Sunergy 6,002.2; 10, EF Education 6,030.0



RUGBY UNION: BRIVE AND PONTYPRIDD REBUILD TARNISHED REPUTATIONS BUT RANCOUR REMAINS

Sinners share the spoils of noble war

Pontypridd.....29
Brive.....29

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BENEATH the magisterial gaze of the president of the Welsh Rugby Union and four representatives of European Rugby Cup Limited (ERC), Pontypridd and Brive did penance at Sardis Road on Saturday. If such punishment could produce such entertainment, how bright a world it would be — though somehow it seemed fitting that the battle of Brive should end with no winner and no loser.

Yet it was a point that Pontypridd could ill afford to lose. The Welsh champions' destiny in the Heineken Cup is in the hands of others, chiefly Bath. Should their English rivals win in Brive next Sunday, then Pontypridd (assuming they beat Scottish Borders 24 hours earlier) will have hopes of claiming a place in the play-offs — but only if they themselves win at Bath in the final round of pool matches. This was by-the-by on Saturday.

Not a fist was raised in anger, not a boot out of place as the two clubs fined by ERC for the violence of their first meeting a fortnight earlier played out a vigorous, nail-biting return before a crowd of 8,000 determined to welcome Brive to their valley. They had limited opportunity: few Brive supporters travelled and the team itself left within 20 minutes of the final whistle.

Patrick Sebastien, the Brive president, expressed relief that the game had been a good advertisement, but added, ominously, that the events of the first match should not be forgotten. It still rankled with him that injuries received in the bar-room brawl that followed the match in Brive kept Philippe Carbonneau, the France scrum half, at home while Phil John, alleged to be one of the primary aggressors on that occasion, played.

When the sound and the fury has died down, surely all competitors in the tournament should recognise that a game can be hard without being violent, that the posturing of players and officials brings only discredit upon themselves.

Pontypridd officials spoke afterwards of their ambitions to be a force in Europe, ambitions which may have to be put on hold for another


Geraint Lewis: 80-metre dash

year, and of their plans for a new stand that would double their capacity. Since they have no private investor, they must raise the cash through members and sponsorship and the events of the last fortnight have not helped in that respect.

That they can play a marvellous brand of rugby is in no doubt. "We played the best team in Europe and scored three tries to their one," Dennis John, their coach, said, though he will need no telling that Pontypridd's failure to control their own set-piece possession allowed the game to slip away.

Brive played a driving game, using their lineout domination to roll forward in the mauls with which Pontypridd never came to terms. Hence the tattoo of penalty goals, eight in all, struck by Christophe Lamaison. The France centre was introduced at full back and betrayed some positional uncertainty, but nevertheless missed only two scoring opportunities.

If Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, winced at the damage done to the home tight forwards, he will have enjoyed the constructive rugby played by Martyn Williams and the speed of mind and body of the young backs. Jenkins's floated pass gave Wyatt the game's first try after Steele Lewis had made the initial break and the young wing would have won the game for his club in the dying moments but for a wonderful try-saving body check by Viars.

As Lamaison's rhythmic swing enhanced Brive's advantage, Pontypridd needed encouragement before the interval and received it from a free kick on halfway. Paul John took the tap, Williams's pass took out two defenders and James's sinuous run carried him clear over 45 metres. Even better was Geraint Lewis's 80-metre dash after half-time, which earned Pontypridd a third try.

Brive were not about to fold. Predictably, their lineout organisation kept them in touch: Allegret's catch was taken on by Magne and, when he was tackled, the ball popped free to the alert Travers for their only try. Sadly for Jenkins, an incautious remark was heard by Gordon Black, the Irish referee, and cost Pontypridd a prime attacking position as the clock ticked down. Not so sad, though, as Lamaison's parting shot: "I do not know these people and I do not wish to know them."

SCORERS: Pontypridd: Tries: Wyatt (9min), James (40), G Lewis (45). Conversion: Jenkins. Penalty goals: Jenkins 4 (4, 21, 43, 56) Brive: Try: Travers (59) Penalty goals: Lamaison 8 (2, 14, 16, 31, 34, 39, 52, 66)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Pontypridd first) 0-3, 3-3, 8-3, 8-6, 8-9, 11-9, 11-12, 11-15, 11-18, 15-18 (half-time) 19-18, 26-18, 26-21, 29-21, 29-26, 29-29

PONTYPRIDD: K Morgan, G Wyatt, D James, S Lewis, G Lewis; N Jenkins, Paul John, N Evnon (Phil John rep) J Ewans, (Simms M Griffiths, G Prosser, S Rey, M Spiller, M Williams, M Lloyd (rep P Thomas, 67)

BRIVE: C Lamaison, S Viars, O Venesti, L Arbizu, J Carral, A Penaud, S Bonnet, D Casadei, L Travers, R Crespy (rep D Laperne, 56), Y Manhes (rep P Lubungu, 60), E Allegret, L van der Linden, O Magne, R Sonnes (rep F Dubosset, 64)

Referee: G Black (Ireland)

Llanelli proceed with caution

HUW EVANS

Llanelli 14
Pau 10

BY DAVID HANDS

IT IS a matter for debate whether events at Stradey Park yesterday meant more in terms of Llanelli's progress in the Heineken Cup or to the future of the tournament as a whole, but even though all was peace and light, both clubs stand to be punished today for the violence that marred their first meeting in Pau a fortnight earlier.

The European Rugby Cup Limited (ERC) board meets this afternoon and Llanelli are braced for a fine of similar proportions to the £30,000 penalty already inflicted upon Pontypridd and Brive. In return, they expect to see Frederic Torossian banned from the competition. Llanelli have video evidence that the Pau scrum half was involved in five separate incidents in the Stade du Hameau, described by Gareth Jenkins, the Llanelli coach, as "absolute thuggery".

Roger Pickering, the ERC chief executive, is already on record in his belief that there was more gratuitous violence in Pau than in Brive. "What happened this weekend doesn't affect the judgment that must be taken in Dublin," he said. "You can't sweep it under the carpet. I don't think the competition was in any danger, but it did undermine it and it has given everyone a shock."

At least Pickering had no X-rated features to deal with over the weekend and Llanelli can now look forward to a place in the play-offs in the hope of qualifying for the knockout stages. They need to succeed, for financial reasons as well as prestige. The disappointingly small crowd of under 4,000 yesterday, on a mild, sunlit afternoon but with live television to contend with, convinced Jenkins that the Welsh public has yet to offer the Heineken Cup the support that its participants require.

Jenkins acknowledged the match's limitations, one of which was that Pau were so

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determined to be on their best behaviour that their game became almost featureless.

The bright start made by the Welshmen, when Boobyer seemed able to open the defence at will, faded in a soporific match played largely between the two 22s. The absence of two experienced internationals, Nigel Davies and Wayne Proctor, may have been a factor, but there was an uncertainty about the Llanelli back three that was reflected in the set scrums, where the home front row was in distinct difficulty.

Botica and Aucagne exchanged early penalty goals, but the former New Zealand fly half was not at his most influential. Happily for Llanelli, Wyatt had an effective match from No 8, both at the lineout and in his galloping forays about the field. It was his sheer persistence, driving through two tackles, that set up Moon for his try.

Pau, hitherto the only unbeaten French team in the competition, gathered themselves for a menacing push in the third quarter and, had they possessed a weightier pack, they might have established a greater advantage. Dantiacq, with a little show of the ball, cut through the midfield for a try and Liberatore seemed to have been driven over the line by his colleagues, only for Brian Stirling, the referee, to deny Pau the score.

Llanelli, however, took their late opportunities. The Pau forwards supported Triep-Capdeville too enthusiastically and killed the ball, allowing Botica to nudge his side ahead from 28 metres. Four minutes later, the visiting backs fell offside and the fly half repeated the dose, but they need far more assurance about their play if they are to offer a sustained threat.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Try: Moon (25mm) Penalty goals: Botica 3 (3, 64, 68) Brive: Try: Dantiacq (56) Conversion: Aucagne Penalty goal: Aucagne (23)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Llanelli first): 3-0, 3-3, 8-3, half-time, 8-10 11-10, 14-10

LLANELLI: D Williams, G Evans, N Boobyer, S Jones, M Wintle; F Botica, R Moon, R Jones (rep: A Jones, 74mm), R McBryde, H Williams-Jones, S Ford, M Voyle, A Gibbs, I Jones, C Wyatt

PAU: N Brusque; B Lhande, D Dantiacq, F Lelor, Y Marin; D Aucagne, F Torossian; P Triep-Capdeville (rep: B Liberatore, 75), J Rey, J-M Gonzalez, A Lagouarde, T Monteres, S Keith, N Bacque, F Rolles (rep: A Agueb, 69)

Referee: B Stirling (Ireland)


Stephen Jones's charge is halted by the Brive defence at Stradey Park

Keast sees benefit of new team spirit

Bourgoin 18
Harlequins.....30

FROM NICOLAS ANDREWS IN BOURGOIN-JALLIEU

SOMETHING strange is happening at Harlequins. "When we find out what it is, we'll bottle it and keep it," Andy Keast, the club's director of rugby, said after this impressive Heineken Cup victory by three tries to nil on Saturday.

What Quins have developed in the weeks since Keast succeeded Dick Best during the summer is a very potent brew; an intoxicating team spirit that has carried them to four successive victories in Europe and qualification for the quarter-finals of this competition. Unless they slip up at Munster and at home to Cardiff, they will also enjoy a home draw in the last eight.

Yes, Harlequins, the colourful yet erratic amateurs of yesteryear, are a team of consummate professionals this season. This victory, only the second that Bourgoin have suffered at home in four seasons, was built on solid, uncompromising defence. "It was one of the best defensive displays by Harlequins I have ever seen," Keast said.

Bourgoin began both halves strongly. For the first 15 minutes after the break, the visitors were under serious, sustained pressure. Yet the line held all afternoon and two first-half tries, plus a richly-deserved second for Laurent Cabannes on the hour, ensured that the home side were, for the most part, struggling somewhere short of parity.

If that score proved to be the critical blow, Bourgoin were not quite down and out. When Geany brought the home side back to within six points with his sixth and last penalty goal, however, Lacroix instantly restored Quins' advantage, just as he had done ten minutes earlier, when Bourgoin briefly took the lead.

Harlequins can now go from strength to strength. "We may not be the finished article by the end of the season," Keast said. But the players could celebrate late on Saturday night, confident that the first few paragraphs are reading pretty well.

SCORERS: Bourgoin: Penalty goals: Geany 6 (3, 9, 34, 44, 53, 62mm) Harlequins. Tries: Cabannes 2 (21, 59), O'Leary (61) Conversions: Lacroix 3 Penalty goals: Lacroix 3 (54, 64, 66)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bourgoin first) 3-0, 3-7, 6-7, 6-14, 9-14 (half-time), 12-14, 15-14, 15-17, 15-24, 18-24, 18-27, 18-30

BOURGOIN: N Geany (rep: L Sunser, 78mm); L Lellamand, Y Bohu, S Glas, D Janin; G Cassagne, N Guilhot; P Vessulier (rep O Milloud, 36), J Martin-Culet, P Peyron, M Cécillon, S Fischer (rep: J Daude, 70), J Frier (rep: A Chazalet, 53), M Malafosse, P Raschi

HARLEQUINS: J Williams (rep: R Lley, 79), D O'Leary, J Keyter, J Ngauamo, L Bellagio, T Lacroix, H Hames, M Cuttitta, I Wood, J Leonard, G Llewellyn, L Gross (rep: G Allison, 53, rep: P Delaney, 60-70), R Jenkins, L Cabannes, W Davison

Referee: D Bevan (Wales)

Leicester's Merlin works his magic

Leicester.....47
Leinster.....22

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE is nothing that Waisale Serevi enjoys more than being boxed in a corner. Over 11 Hong Kong Sevens, the Fijian wizard of the abbreviated game has fashioned spectacular scores out of the tightest spots. Leinster forwards comically groped at thin air as the little Merlin weaved his spell on Saturday.

Drafted into the heart of the action after four quiet games on the wing, Serevi thrived on the responsibility and in the cramped space at fly half. Welford Road has been weaned on push and shove rugby, but 10,000 voices acclaimed an artist, who impishly created three of five tries in Leicester's revenge for their earlier Heineken Cup defeat by the Ireland inter-provincial champions.

Should Joel Stransky fail to shake off a dead leg that restricted him to 35 painful minutes, Serevi is some fly half alternative for Toulouse's visit on Saturday, which will almost certainly determine the pool A winners. He has proved much to Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, and answered questions that have haunted his less celebrated 15-a-side career.

Dwyer has said that if Serevi cannot translate his skills to the 15-game, it will reflect on his abilities as a coach. Although he took over from Stransky when Leicester had done most of the softening-up work, Dwyer, like the Fiji selectors, still uncertain about Serevi's best position, revelled as much as anyone in his balletic repertoire of spins and turns that drove Leinster dizzy.

"He certainly has a great deal of subtlety in his play," Dwyer said. At No 10, Serevi has been less of a success in representative matches that have mattered, hence Dwyer's understatement.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Barlow (45min), Healey (59), Malone (63), Rowntree (70), Greenwood (78). Conversions: Serevi 2 Penalty goals: Stransky 3 (8, 13, 16), Sareva 2 (35, 48) Dropped goal: Healey (26) Leinster: Tries: Hickie 2 (72, 79), McWeeney (22) Conversions: McGowan 2 Penalty goal: McGowan (52)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first) 3-0, 6-0, 9-0, 9-7, 12-7, 15-7 (half-time), 20-7, 23-7, 23-10, 30-10, 35-10, 40-10, 40-15, 47-15, 47-22

LEICESTER: M Horak (rep: W Serevi, 27min), L Lloyd (rep J Hamilton, 68), N Malone, S Potter, T Barlow; J Stransky (rep W Greenwood, 35), A Healey; P Freshwater (rep G Rowntree, 63), R Cockerill (rep D West, 71), D Garforth, M Johnson, M Poole (rep N Fletcher, 71), M Corry, N Back (rep P Gustard, 63), E Miller

LEINSTER: K Nowlan (St Mary's College), D Hickie (St Mary's College), M Ridge (Old Belvedere), K McDuffin (Beche Rangers; rep: C Clarke, Terenure College, 49), J McWeeney (St Mary's College); A McGowan (Blackrock College), D O'Mahony (Lansdowne), R Corrigan (Greystones), S Byrne (Blackrock College, rep J Blaney, Terenure College, 49), E Byrne (St Mary's College), S Jameson (St Mary's College, rep D O'Brien, DLSP, 49), A Freeman (Lansdowne), T Brennan (St Mary's College), D O'Sullivan (Shannon) V Costello (St Mary's College)

Referee: D Gillet (France)

Wasps dominate after early errors

Wasps 43
Glasgow 5

BY BARNEY SPENDER

IN THE end, it was knock-about stuff and a comfortable win for Wasps, who are now virtually guaranteed to progress to the next round of the Heineken Cup as winners of Group B, but for the best part of an hour at Loftus Road yesterday, they were made to work hard by a tigerish, if limited, Glasgow side.

After last week's surprise win over Swansea, the Scots, whose chances of progressing further would now appear to depend on reaching the play-offs, were disappointed at their performance. They had no need to be because their defence, until the latter stages, when weariness set in, showed an admirable resilience and they were a constant menace around the fringes and in midfield.

They also scored the outstanding try of the match through James Craig, their impressively quick left wing, who burst clear after receiving the ball inside his own 22 five minutes before half-time. Otherwise it was almost all Wasps. They gorged themselves with possession and, but for an uncharacterstic casualness, they would have had the match won by the interval. At least half-a-dozen scoring chances, however, came to naught because of careless handling.

Alex King, their fly half, produced the first decisive moment when a feint and dart through the middle set up Nick Greenstock for the opening try after 18 minutes. However, it was the unlikely figure of Paddy Dunston, the prop, who earned the affection of the crowd and the man-of-the-match award after a series of bullocking runs.

Having decided not to give up his career as an management accountant at Ford, Dunston, 29, is already a throwback to the halycon days when rugby players had jobs and the obvious relish with which he charged at the Glasgow defence reflected that. The fact that he had played for Wasps' Vandals side at London Scottish on Saturday and that he only knew of his selection for this match, in place of the unwell Will Green, shortly before kick-off says much for his spirit.

A splendid break after 29 minutes led to Logan's first try as Wasps moved into a 14-5 lead at the interval. A Rees penalty three minutes into the second half stretched the lead and Sheasby's try after a forward drive from a lineout 15 metres out broke the back of the resistance.

Logan, Worsley and Gomarsall all cashed in, although Dallaglio's superb drop goal on the turn was ruled out for offside. It was a good win in the end, but Wasps know that there will harder tests down the line.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: N Greenstock (18min), K Logan 2 (29, 65), C Sheasby (51), J Worsley (70) A Gomarsall (80) Conversions: G Rees 5. Penalties: Rees (43). Glasgow: Try J Craig (35)

SCORING SEQUENCE: (Wasps first) 7-0, 14-0, 14-5 (half-time), 17-5, 24-5, 31-5, 36-5, 43-5.

WASPS: G Rees; S Rosser, N Greenstock, R Henderson, K Logan; A King, A Gomarsall; D Molloy, S Mitchell (rep D Mackie, 40mm), I Dunston, M Wadson, A Reed, L Dallaglio , M White (rep J Worsley 51), C Sheasby

GLASGOW: C Sangster; D Stark, D Ablett (rep G Metcalfe, 48), M McGrandles (C Little, 63), J Craig, T Hayes, F Stott; G Mallwham (rep M Beckham, 63), G Bulloch (captain), A Kime, S Begley, G Perrett, M Wallace (rep F Wallace 48), I Sinclair, D McLeish

Referee: D McHugh (Ireland)

Soft try by Jarvis hurts Munster

Munster 32
Cardiff 37

BY KARL JOHNSTON

THE biggest attendance at Musgrave Park for five years failed to save Munster from a tantalisingly narrow defeat by Cardiff in pool D of the Heineken Cup on Saturday.

Lee Jarvis scored 27 points, including a try, for Cardiff, but a moment of defensive naivety early on probably cost Munster the day and their unbeaten home record in European competition. Penalised in their own 22-metre area, Munster trooped back to watch Jarvis take the kick; instead, he tapped the ball, ran in the softest of tries and then added the points.

Demoralised, Munster were soon 17-3 adrift, but they fought back to lead 21-20 at half-time.

Conor Burke kicked 17 points and Alan Quinlan, the flanker, named man-of-the-match, had an apparent match-winning try disallowed near the end.

SCORERS: Munster: Tries: Quinlan (30min), Kelly (37), Foley (41) Conversion: Burke Penalty goals: Burke 5 (2, 17, 27, 48, 69). Cardiff: Tries: Walker (4) Jarvis 2 (7, 46), Humphreys (55) Conversions: Jarvis 4 Penalty goals: Jarvis 3 (14, 23, 36).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Munster first) 3-0, 3-7, 3-14, 3-17, 6-17, 6-20, 9-20 16-20, 21-20 (half-time), 21-27, 28-27, 35-34, 29-34, 32-34, 32-37

MUNSTER: D Crotty (Garryowen) J Lacey (Shannon), C Burke (Sunday's Well), R Ellison (Shannon) (rep S McIvor (Garryowen, 55-58mm)) J Kelly (Cork Constitution), K Keane (Garryowen) (rep: B McCahill, Sunday's Well, 71), B O'Meara (Cork Constitution), I Murray (Cork Constitution) (rep: G Walsh, Garryowen, 56), M McDermott (Shannon), P Clohessy (Young Munster), M Galwey (Shannon, captain), S Leahy (Garryowen) E Halvey (Shannon), A Quinlan (Shannon) A Foley (Shannon)

CARDIFF: R Ross, S Hill, M Hall (rep: G Jones, 32-35), L Davies, N Walker, L Jarvis, R Howley, A Lewis, J Humphreys (rep: H Bevan, 65-68) D Young, D Jones, K Stewart (rep: J Tait, 47) G Kacala (rep: Bevan, 72), O Williams (rep: S Williams, 47), E Lewis

Referee: A Spreadbury (England)

Callard accuracy gives Bath edge

Bath 27
Scottish Borders 23

BY GERALD DAVIES

NO PLAYER was cited at the Recreation Ground on Saturday, which was good news. However, the news might not have been so heartening.

In first-half injury time, a Bath player did trample over Welsh, the Borders fly half. The offending feet did not seem to be having much to do with rucking the ball. In fact, the incident did not seem dissimilar to the one that earned Tony Rees, of Cardiff, a 90-day suspension after the encounter with Harlequins.

In neither case, at Cardiff nor Bath, had the referee or his two touch judges seen the incident. It was the availability of television pictures that made the citing possible in Cardiff. Cardiff thus suffered, Bath did not; one club's reputation is sullied, the other remains innocent.

As for this game, it was a thoroughly entertaining one. With 12 minutes to go, there was only a point in it, the Borders having closed a gap of 19-8 to 24-23, before Callard's fifth penalty sealed victory for Bath.

In the early stages, a Redpath try and a Chalmers penalty goal against Callard's two penalties was a fair reflection of the play. The Borders were more direct and more purposeful when they set their three-quarters on the run. Bath, too, did a lot of passing and throwing the ball around, hoping, in the main, to set Adebayo loose. When they did, Nichol proved his equal. At other times, it all looked rather aimless, which is something that Callard may wish to pay attention to, now that he has been appointed as the Bath assistant coach. He will continue to play.

After their sluggish start, the Bath forwards got together and heaved their way forward. Catt then saw a gap and carved his way towards the line. He was held up just short for what must have seemed an eternity for the home crowd. A final shove from behind finally took him to ground.

Ferguson, the Borders' forward, was then given a yellow card after all the adjudicators had missed the earlier more serious piece of stamping. Callard kicked the penalty to give Bath a 16-8 half-time lead.

After the interval, Callard and Chalmers swapped penalties, and Peters's 50-metre solo try was cancelled out by a more fortuitous effort from Dods. Stanger's try was the best of the afternoon, stretching some 70 metres after Hogg's swift break. Having come so close, the Borders were denied another chance of victory by Callard's accuracy.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Catt (35min), Peters (58) Conversion: Callard Penalty goals: Callard 5 (19, 21, 40, 44, 75) Scottish Borders: Tries: Redpath (12), Dods (65), Stanger (69). Conversion: Chalmers Penalty goals: Chalmers 2 (23, 47)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath first): 0-5, 3-5, 6-5, 6-8, 13-8 16-8 (half-time), 19-8, 19-11, 24-11, 24-16, 24-23, 27-23.

BATH: J Callard; J Sleightholme, P de Glanville, M Perry, A Adebayo, M Catt, R Pellow (rep: C Harrison, 40mm); D Hilton, M Regan (rep: A Long, 22) C Horsman, M Haag, N Redman, R Earnshaw, R Webster (rep E Peters, 54), S Ojomoh (rep: D Lyle, 54)

SCOTTISH BORDERS: G Aitchison (Kelso); S Nichol (Melrose; rep M Monsnieff, Melrose, 63), A Stanger (Hawick), C Chalmers (Melrose), M Dods (Northampton) S Welsh (Hawick), B Redpath (Melrose), P Wright (West of Scotland) J Hay (Hawick), S Ferguson (Peebles), R Brown (Melrose), I Fullerton (Dundee HSFP), R Kirkpatrick (Boroughmuir) C Hogg (Melrose), A Roxburgh (Kelso)

Referee: D Davies (Wales)

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Chelsea rediscover home comforts as United and Arsenal stumble on the road

Destructive Wise builds on growing reputation

CHELSEA 1
NEWCASTLE UNITED 0

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

IT WAS late in the game, later even than Keith Gillespie's last-minute volley that Ed de Goey fended off with an outstretched foot, when Dennis Wise made his final contribution. Alessandro Pistone had sidestepped two challenges and drawn his right foot back, ready to shoot, when he came up against the immovable object.

At the instant that he made contact with the ball, his body shook with the impact of Wise's perfectly-timed block tackle. The ball flew away to safety, Pistone fell to the floor in a crumpled heap and, as the Italian sought attention from the Newcastle physio, the rest of the Chelsea team gathered round their captain and gave him high fives. A few seconds later, the final whistle blew.

Wise made an unlikely hero on Saturday. The right side of his face still bore the ugly scars of the altercation he had with an unknown assailant in the tunnel at half-time during Chelsea's draw with Manchester United at Old Trafford on Wednesday night. The previous Sunday, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, suggested he should have been sent off for a lunging, two-footed tackle on Patrick Vieira that bristled with intent.

But the hero he was. Most of the post-match plaudits went to Gianfranco Zola and Gustavo Poyet, the scorer of the match's solitary goal with a fine 74th-minute header, but it was Wise who was at the heart of everything that Chelsea created. More important in this match, he was the soul of everything they destroyed.

Gradually, in fact, as the mists of romance swirling around the silky skills of players like Zola, Roberto di Matteo and Frank Leboeuf begin to clear, it is becoming apparent that Gullit, just like Wenger, sets as much store by the art of physical *combat, the pursuit of aggression*, particularly in midfield, as he does by the skills of his so-called flair players.

Bernard Lambourde, an understated stoic who tackles hard and passes short, has been drafted in to the centre of that midfield in the past two weeks and Poyet, a Latin American who wears his heart on his sleeve and seems to have developed a talent for irritating his opponents, is firmly established alongside him.

Week after week, though, Gullit has singled out Wise for special praise and, amid the plethora of permutations of players he has fielded, only Wise and Poyet have been constants. When Glenn Hoddle announces his England squad to face Italy today, only Chris Sutton, of Blackburn Rovers, has a stronger argument for inclusion than Wise among those hoping to break into the manager's plans.

On Saturday, he was outstanding again. He took the corner, accurate and hit with speed and curl, from which Poyet rose between Peacock and Watson and arrowed a header beyond Given for the Chelsea winner. Yet his real contribution was in defence.

When Newcastle, who may have had one eye on their European Cup Champions' League clash with Dynamo Kiev on Wednesday and were also forced to start without Faustino Asprilla, who had a stomach bug, tried belatedly to force their way back into the match, Wise was the rock on which they foundered.

Newcastle were ill-prepared for an attempt to make up a deficit of any kind. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, who was admirably candid is his after-match assessment that Chelsea had clearly been the better side, included six defenders in his team and played three of them alongside the deep-lying Batty and Barnes in a midfield that was hardly built for attacking lunges. Rush, ploughing a lone furrow in the attack, may just have edged Batty in the contest for the visitors' best player. Their contributions paled beside that of Wise, though.

His commanding presence this season, the fact that he has matured into an even better player than he was last year — still a creative influence but now a giant crusher in the breaker's yard of defensive midfield, too — epitomises the improvement that Chelsea have made this season.

No matter how hard Gullit had tried to disguise it at his weekly press conference on Friday, it was a psychological imperative for them to record at least one victory in their present series of games against Arsenal, Manchester United, Newcastle and Liverpool. Arsenal and United had come and gone with only one point secured, but against Newcastle, after one glaring miss from Jon Dahl Tomasson and several fine saves from De Goey, they got the breakthrough they so desperately needed and established themselves as genuine championship contenders.

Gullit made it plain where he felt the match had been won. "This is the type of victory that pleases me the most," he said. "In the past, these are the type of games that Chelsea would not have won, but things are different here now.

"It was a difficult match because Newcastle played very defensively and, at the beginning, we were giving the ball away so often we were playing against ourselves more than them. But a draw for us would have been a loss today and that is why we ended the match playing with three forwards.

"What really pleased me about today was that our so-called stars worked harder than anyone. People like Zola and Poyet and Dennis Wise, they never stopped. If they work hard for you, the rest will follow and that is what happened today."

CHELSEA (4-4-2): E De Goey — P Hughes (sub: F Sinclair, 24min), F Leboeuf, A Myers, G Le Saux — R di Matteo (sub: M Hughes, 88), B Lambourde, D Wise, G Poyet — T A Flo, G Zola.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-1-1): S Given — D Peacock, A Pistone, P Albert — S Watson, W Barton, D Batty, J Barnes (sub: K Gillespie, 75), J Beresford (sub: S Howey, 60) — J Tomasson (sub: T Ketsbaia, 55) — I Rush.
Referee: M Riley

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT



Poyet, right, the Chelsea goalscorer, gets the better of an aerial conflict with Watson

Barnsley maintain pride before the inevitable fall

Michael Henderson finds some reasons to be cheerful amid the gloom descending on Oakwell

BARNSLEY 0
LEICESTER CITY 2

THERE are many reasons for wishing Barnsley well in this season of adventure. Here are five:
1. Their players do not consort with lickspittles, ne'er-do-wells and pop stars; nor do they exalt themselves above the game.
2. They have never, so far as we know, acquired "sublime" skills, or experienced moments of "epiphany".
3. Mellor and Baker, radio's resident buffoons, have probably never clapped eyes on them. Lucky old Barnsley.
4. They are ignored by people like the breathless teenager who wrote last week that men like Zola and Asprilla were playing football of a kind never before seen in England. Of a kind he has never seen, perhaps.
5. They are not "Premier League super-heavyweights", as a television bod referred to Chelsea the other night. Chelsea? With one championship in their history!
Here are five more:
1. They have not spent £7 million on a striker who cannot find the goal.
2. They are not supported by people who think the game is part of "popular culture".
3. They do not excuse bad behaviour, as Des Lynam did of Ruud Gullit at Old Trafford the other night.
4. Ian Wright doesn't play for them.
5. Danny Wilson, the manager, is a personable man.

These are excellent qualities, but, all the same, catch them while you can because, short of plague and pestilence, they are returning whence they came. It is becoming ever harder for promoted clubs to stay up and Barnsley clearly have neither the strength nor the depth. They have now lost five games in a row.

Leicester provide a comparison because it is only a year since they were promoted, also with no hope of striking oil. Yet they stayed up, won the old League Cup for good measure and are now third in the table.

It is quite an achievement and even though Martin O'Neill, their shrewd if garrulous manager, insists on acting up, his "antic disposition" fools nobody. No mug he.

Barnsley were not outclassed, nor will they be on many occasions, but their defensive frailty — not a fault exclusive to them, by any means — and their lack of sharpness in attack mean that they will concede most of the big points.

It is in defence, where Elliott and Prior linked impressively, that Leicester have real solidity. That pair would not be out of place in a chain gang and, when Walsh returns from injury, Leicester will offer few gifts. In a league of poor *defenders, Elliott has, in quick* time, made himself one to watch.

Marshall, the third centre half, headed Leicester in front from Guppy's cross after a corner on the left. Fenton scored the second after Leese blocked his penalty. Barnsley failed to bring a save out of Keller.

Anthropologically, there were some interesting sightings. Not the least was the boy at the visitors' end, aged no more than seven, who aped the mannerisms of his elders like an apprentice in some medieval Nuremberg guild. By his tenth birthday, he should be word (and gesture) perfect. No wonder we are producing the most stupid people in Europe.

BARNSLEY (4-4-2): L Leese — M Appleby, A Moses, A de Zeeuw, A Kinzan — D Sheridan, N Redfearn, E Tinkler (sub: M Bullock, 68min), D Barnard — A Liddell (sub: C Marcelle, 72), A Ward.
LEICESTER CITY (5-5): K Keller — P Kaamark, S Prior, M Elliott, I Marshall, S Guppy — M Izzet, N Lennon, E Heckley (sub: S Claridge, 76), R Savage, G Fenton (sub: A Cottee, 69).
Referee: G Poll.

Keane fails to tackle problem of recklessness

LEEDS UNITED 1
MANCHESTER UNITED 0

By David Maddock

STRETCHING away from the garish, plastic-shrouded entrance of Elland Road is a car park the size of a small town. On match days, it appears to hold more people than could surely ever squeeze into the stadium and is usually a riot of excited expectation.

On Saturday, a strange hush descended over the gathering. Manchester United were in town. The enemy. The invincible red army who had prompted the sacking of the Leeds manager a year ago after a 4-0 victory here, unbeaten this season — and Leeds without a home win. Gulp.

There was no traitorous *Cantona to rouse sunken spirits*, either, but two hours later the car park rang to the deafening sounds of blaring car horns and spontaneous chants. The enemy had been put to the sword and the Leeds supporters had even been offered the gift of another figure to despise in place of the Frenchman.

Their new target had hobbled from the ground on crutches to an accompaniment of jeers, taunts and abuse. Ungenerous, maybe, given his predicament, but then the home support had righteous indignation on its side. Roy Keane — yes, it was him — had suffered self-inflicted injuries and his detractors, standing by the United coach spitting hate, loved it.

Keane has variously been described as a modern-day midfield miracle and a reformed character by Alex Ferguson, his manager, this week. The Irishman, arguably, has developed into one of the most effective players in the FA Carling Premiership. But calmed? Steady now.

Keane is doubtful for the European Cup Champions' League game against Juventus on Wednesday, a match that Ferguson describes as crucial to his side's fortunes. Keane, though, injured himself in a spiteful challenge on Haaland. In a week when he was also involved in an incident in the tunnel against Chelsea and an alleged 3am bar-room confrontation, it was an act of crass stupidity.

His rush of blood, call it what you will, cost Manchester United a game they dominated for 60 minutes. He was forced to limp from the field after his team had already used their three substitutes, leaving them with ten men when an equaliser had seemed inevitable.

Far worse is his possible absence on Wednesday. If United are to qualify for the quarter-finals, they must beat the Italians at Old Trafford and without Keane that prospect is less likely.

It was a nasty foul that earned a booking and a stinging response *from Haaland. Square-jawed and* spiky-topped, the Norwegian refused to be intimidated by his opponent throughout an unpleasant contest and he maintained his abrasive stance afterwards.

"It happens of course, against Manchester United; you have to fight them in midfield, but maybe Keane hyped himself up too much for a game. You can't defend him because he is captain. You have seen it before, sometimes he gets too hyped up and maybe he needs to stop and think and control himself a bit more."

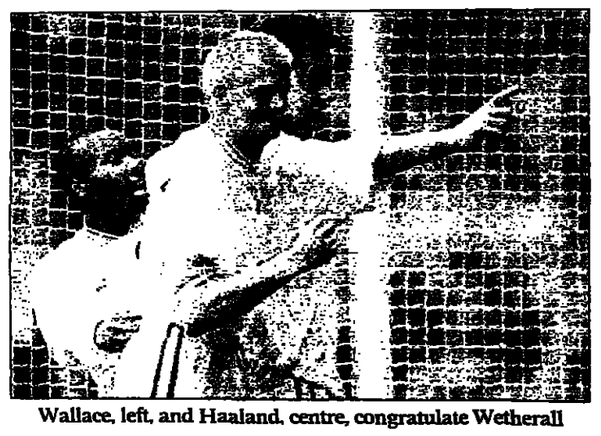
Harsh words, but appropriate. Even if Keane plays, the watching Juventus contingent will feel they have the measure of their English opponents. They witnessed a masterclass from George Graham, *the Leeds manager, in how to* defeat Manchester United. They also saw how easily Keane can be riled.

Ferguson's side is no longer the cavalier outfit that excited English football in winning two doubles. Sheringham is a poor man's Cantona. They lack flair and this present vintage relies heavily on its ability to physically overwhelm teams and grind out results. Bottle up the midfield, match them in commitment, retain discipline and you have a chance.

Easier said than done, of course, but Graham's side dominated the midfield long enough to take the lead, when David Wetherall towered above the visiting defence to exploit indecision by Schmeichel and power a header into the net from a Kelly free kick. After that, they clung on, thanks largely to three wonderful saves fromn Martyn, the best a quite staggering catch from a Sheringham header.

Graham spoke afterwards of needing to virtually play as an away side at Elland Road to offset United's counter-attacking incision. He suggested that Juventus would need to adopt similar tactics even in Italy, but that is probably over-emphasising Manchester United's ability. On this evidence, they will do well to improve on their performances against the Italians last season, which resulted in two 1-0 defeats.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, L Radtbe, D Wetherall, D Robertson — G Kelly, D Hopkin (sub: R Molenaar, 78min), A I Haaland, B Ribeiro — H Kewell, R Wallace.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville (sub: P Neville, 71), G Pallister, H Berg, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes (sub: R Johnsen, 54), K Poborsky (sub: B Thornley, 72) — E Sharingham, O G Solskjaer.
Referee: M Bodenham.



Wallace, left, and Haaland, centre, congratulate Wetherall

Berkovic resumes leading role

WEST HAM UNITED 2
LIVERPOOL 1

By Brian Glanville

WHAT a transformation. West Ham United, humiliated at Arsenal last Wednesday, their defence in tatters, rose from the ruins at Upton Park on Saturday. They beat a Liverpool team whose manager, Roy Evans, was the one left to talk of picking themselves up and dusting themselves off.

Another opening, another show. Certainly West Ham's defence was vastly more disciplined. No longer was it a case of almost every kick in their direction *turning into a devastating through-pass.* This time, the three-man rearguard was exactly that, rather than sporadically a back four.

Andy Impey, signed from Queens Park Rangers, came into the left side of a five-man midfield and Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was delighted with his form, especially as he had not played a league game for six months.

Impey began well and might have scored on the half-hour with a searing right-foot drive that James turned over the bar. Inevitably, perhaps, less was seen of Impey *in the second half.*

What really made the difference, however, was the return of that Israeli imp, Eyal Berkovic. In his very different way, he is becoming as important to West Ham as Trevor Brooking once was.

It was Berkovic who set up the first West Ham goal after 16 minutes, driving the ball against the post before John Hartson put the rebound into an empty net. It was Berkovic, too, after 66 minutes, who scored West Ham's winner, after Unsworth's cross from the left was only glanced away by Babb.

All three goals, in fact, came when the ball broke out of defence. Robbie Fowler's was beyond doubt the most spectacular and it came after 54 minutes, when West Ham seemed comfortably in charge. A West Ham header reached him on the edge of the box and he struck an instant, ferocious left-foot shot into the top far corner.

It compensated for the header he missed after a mere six minutes, when Bjornebye's long cross from the left found him unattended. He could only nod the ball at Miklosko. Two minutes after his goal, he took a pass from Ince and curled the ball past a bewildered Miklosko, only for it to come back off the bar.

Ince was given a rough time by the West Ham fans, who, even after all these years, cannot forgive him for posing in a Manchester United shirt before his transfer to Old Trafford. Evans shrugged it off. "I didn't think it was too bad," he said. "He knew he was going to get some stick today. He's got broad shoulders. But it wasn't outrageous." Nor was it very pretty.

Of Fowler's remarkable goal, Evans said wryly: "It was a great strike, but I'd rather have had two tap-ins." Redknapp paid tribute to the lively combination of Fowler and the precocious Owen: "They looked on fire," he said.

At one point in the second half, Owen skilfully made space for himself on the left goalline to put in a cross that left the goal exposed, only for Unsworth to clear from Fowler's feet.

"We put balls in the box today," Redknapp said. "I thought it could be a problem for them, because they didn't have a big header on the ball, like Mark Wright. I thought if we were to cause them problems, we could dominate them in the air."

Evans conceded that "the strength of Dowie and Hartson is going to cause you some problems", but refused to make the absence of several players an excuse. "We're not firing on all cylinders," he said.

He thought Liverpool should have had a second-half penalty when Unsworth brought Fowler down, the referee evidently deciding that Unsworth had played the ball. Redknapp would not have objected to a penalty, but thought that West Ham, too, should have had one for a push in the box.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L Miklosko — D Unsworth, R Ferdinand, I Pearce — T Breacker, E Berkovic, F Lampard, S Lomas, A Impey — I Dowie, J Hartson.
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — BT Kvarme (sub: J McAteer, 72min), J Carragher, P Babb, SI Bjornebye — S McManaman, M Thomas (sub: D Murphy, 72), P Ince, P Berger (sub: K Redle, 77) — M Owen, R Fowler.
Referee: D Gallagher

Cadamarteri spells out defiance

EVERTON 2
ARSENAL 2

By Mark Hodkinson

CHILDREN have a sharp eye and a love of detail. While grown-ups will attend a match in a club shirt hanging loose over a pair of trousers, junior goes for the full kit; sometimes, in extreme cases, running to a pair of shinpads.

At 5.45pm on Saturday, such a young man was explaining something patiently to his dad, probably not for the first time. They were practically skipping through Stanley Park, still buoyed by a remarkable Everton fightback. "No, Dad, he's called Cadamarteri," the youngster said, exasperated. "Cada . . ." began his dad, and, then, stumbling over the vowels, retired unhurt. "I'll just call him Danny." he laughed.

Danny Cadamarteri, just 17 years old, has arrived in the FA Carling Premiership and, for all we are going to hear of him, the unusual amalgamation of letters that form his surname will soon be as familiar as Smith or Jones. He is a player, much like Michael Owen at Liverpool, primed for football hierarchy. Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, played him as a lone forward against the celebrated might of Arsenal's defence. Specifically, his markers were Adams and Bould, two players with more than 800 league appearances between them, not to mention nearly 28 stone.

Cadamarteri, on only his second full appearance, was distinctly underawed by such football statesmen. When the ball fell to his feet, he ran at them with joyous glee and, when they offered a shin or instep, he skipped past, almost with a chuckle.

He possesses great skill and pace, but he also has a mastery of the subtleties that can take a career to learn. He can shift his weight cunningly to block a defender's path, or drop his shoulder into an opponent's chest with the requisite force to fend off the challenge while staying within the laws of the game.

Arsenal were ruthlessly efficient in the first half, with Wright scoring from a sublime Bergkamp pass and Overmars adding a second from close range. "Game over," announced a press box sage, expecting Arsenal to pull down the blinds.

After the interval, Everton found the incision to complement their approach play. Ball, another 17-year-old, scored just five minutes into the second half and Cadamarteri equalised six minutes later. He collected a loose ball in the penalty area and, while all around him fell into still life, he moved the ball from one foot to the other and placed it impudently beyond Seaman.

There were no more goals, but the match remained eminently watchable. The mixture of dashing skill — provided chiefly by the foreign players — allied to the fizz of youth and a desire by both teams to secure a win made for an unexpectedly high entertainment ratio.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, felt his team's tiredness had contributed to an open game. "When you play so many games, this is a worry. We did not have the mental state today," he said. "I was impressed by the spirit of Everton, they did not give up. The crowd got *behind them because they have* so many young players."

At the final whistle, Wright embraced Cadamarteri, while the Everton faithful settled for the easy option and chanted "Danny"; they will clearly need more time to find a rhyming couplet to suit his surname.

Howard Kendall, himself a former teenage prodigy, was understandably cautious with his praise for his young team. "The lads did not look out of place. They will improve with games and I think we have a bright future here," he said.

Cadamarteri, although born in Bradford, has an exotic ancestry and qualifies to play for five different countries. It might well be prudent for one of Glenn Hoddle's underlings to stake an early claim with a judicious phone call. There will not be many Cadamarteris in the Bradford phone book.

EVERTON (3-4-2-1): P Gerrard — S Bilic, D Watson, M Ball — E Barrett, A Grant (sub: G McCann, 72min), G Speed, T Phelan — G Stuart, J Ostar — D Cadamarteri
ARSENAL (3-4-2-1): D Seaman — G Grimandi, A Adams, S Bould — R Parlour (sub: D Platt, 72), P Vieira (sub: R Garde, 87), E Petit, N Winterburn — D Bergkamp, M Overmars (sub: L Boa Morte, 64) — I Wright.
Referee: A Wilkie.

Dismissals provide the only excitement on a slow day at Ewood Park

Dublin and Wilcox earn their red cards

BLACKBURN ROVERS 0
COVENTRY CITY 0

By David Maddock

HOW appropriate that the sponsor of this match was Focus DIY; it was a make-do and mend sort of contest. Two dismissals, one from each side, provided what little excitement there was, but destroyed any cohesion that had developed.

Blackburn Rovers had most of the game, but, for a side who had scored 16 goals in their previous three matches at Ewood Park, they displayed a surprising lack of penetration. Coventry City, for their part, aimed for nothing more than a point after Dion Dublin was sent off just before the interval.

It was a hotly disputed decision, but Peter Jones, the referee, proved just as correct in brandishing the red card to the Coventry forward as he did later when dismissing Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn, for a preposterously wild kick.

Dublin and Gordon Strachan, his manager, protested long and loud at the decision that saw him leave the field after 42 minutes. The forward described his dismissal as a joke and claimed he did not make contact when jumping with an elbow aimed at Colin Hendry.

Strachan went further. "I've seen it on television from two angles and I find it extraordinary that the referee, who was in a better position than the assistant referee, referred to his linesman," he said.

"The other angle showed that Dion missed Colin by some distance. I now feel I will have to follow Mr Ferguson in asking the FA to look at the decision again and we'll see if the FA show Coventry as much respect as they did Manchester United."

The pair were being disingenuous. Dublin did not make proper contact, but he appeared to jump without even the pretence of going for the ball. Had he made contact, it would have been nasty. It was, perhaps, no coincidence that Dublin was sent off in this fixture a year ago for violent conduct. Old scores had to be settled.



DAN CHUNG

Dublin, the Coventry forward, argues with the referee, Peter Jones, after being sent off at Ewood Park yesterday, but he seemed to deserve his punishment

Hendry was concerned afterwards that the Coventry players had accused him of feigning injury in order to get Dublin sent off. He was, he said, knocked off balance by the forward's challenge, but admitted there was minimal contact with the elbow and said that he tried to indicate to the referee as such.

"He didn't catch me with the elbow and even though I went down, I tried to get back up again as quickly as possible. I was trying to tell the referee that it wasn't a big problem and that I was fine, but I couldn't get a word in edgeways because the Coventry players were all having a go at me, making out that I had feigned injury and tried to suggest I had been elbowed."

As for Wilcox, he should be ashamed of himself. With Rovers in complete control and surely about to break Coventry's resolve, he produced a mindless act of foul play on 68 minutes. He was checked slightly as he ran past Michael O'Neill, the Coventry substitute, and, right in front of the referee, aimed a scything kick that definitely connected. At least the winger had the good grace to face the media afterwards to offer his regret. If only more footballers would respond with the humility he showed in addressing his misdemeanour. "It was just an act of frustration," he said. "I knocked the ball out wide and he blocked me off, but I know I did lash out. It's just a blur in my mind. It was frustration and all I can say is that it won't ever happen again."

Roy Hodgson, the Rovers manager, expressed his disappointment with both the player and his team after a poor performance. He had every right. His side had enough possession to have won two matches, but lacked both the wit and skill to break down Coventry resilience epitomised by their centre halves, Shaw and, in particular, Breen.

Chris Sutton will be called into the England squad today after becoming the FA Carling Premiership's top scorer, but he was restricted to just a couple of chances. The first came after 17 minutes when Wilcox turned quite deliciously and crossed to offer Sutton a free header, but his powerful effort was saved wonderfully by Steve Ogrizovic. It was the first of a number of saves in yet another competent display by the goalkeeper, who equalled the Coventry league record number of appearances of 487, which had been held by George Curtis.

Even at 40, Ogrizovic shows no signs of diminishing ability. He stopped everything that Blackburn could muster and, when they threw the kitchen sink, he caught even that. He could have connected it up again too, given that he was a plumber before becoming a footballer. He saved well from Sutton on the stroke of half-time and then, after the break, turned away efforts from Flitcroft and Gallacher.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, P Valery (sub: D Duff, 56min) — K Gallacher, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — C Sutton, M Dahlin (sub: L Bohinen, 75)
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer (sub: M O'Neill, 46), W Boland, G McAllister, M Hall — D Dublin, D Huckerby (sub: K Lightbourne, 64)
Referee: P Jones

Derby add to their developing sense of pride

DERBY COUNTY 4
SOUTHAMPTON 0

By Peter Robinson

THERE is a sense of wonderment in Derby, almost of disbelief. People stand and stare, preen and point, they bring cameras with them and pose against a background that they almost need to see on paper, in glorious technicolour, to believe that it is not simply a dream. Pride Park was well named. Derby — dour, dark Derby — is bursting with the stuff.

Seven weeks into the season and the feeling persists as strongly as ever. People were milling around Derby County's new stadium long before Saturday's match, oblivious to the gas tanks and scrubland that surround the heir to the antiquated, atmospheric Baseball Ground. Rarely can a visit from Southampton have generated such a sense of occasion.

Nor was the feeling confined simply to matters architectural. On the concourses inside, people looked up at television screens and watched, in some cases stared, at film of their midweek rout of Sheffield Wednesday, five goals scored away from home, amazing, could it be true, really, could it?

It could, was and, to yet more astonishment, Derby promptly went out and did it again with a performance that matched the opulence of their surroundings. Four goals in seven minutes were greeted first with relief, then delight, then glee and finally almost manic laughter, as if this could not really be happening.

So what if the rout was started by the definitive dodgy pen? After 75 minutes of arrogant, disdainful dominance, of silken skills, of posts hit and shots that flashed only inches high and wide, Derby probably deserved a bit of luck. Eranio tumbled over Dryden's outstretched leg, Dryden jumped up, demanded a goal kick and was instead booked. Eranio struck his penalty hard and true and Paul Jones, the Southampton goalkeeper, obligingly leapt out of the way.

"It was an absolute disgrace," David Jones, the Southampton manager, spluttered later. "He [Keith Burge, the referee] was the only person in the crowd or out on the pitch who thought it was a penalty and it changed the whole course of the game." All true, nobody could argue with a word of it, but his assertion that Derby were running out of ideas and that a draw was on the cards was one-eyed in the extreme. A draw would have been a travesty.

Derby's cosmopolitan mix of Italians, a Croatian, a Costa Rican, a Jamaican, a Dane, an Estonian and a few Brits was far too good for a Southampton side, albeit depleted, that looked hopelessly out of its depth. Stimac, the Derby defender, was so obviously contemptuous of the dross he was being asked to combat that the only danger was overconfidence. Eranio strolled in midfield, a touch here, a glide there. Baiano buzzed up front, all ideas and instant control, and Wanchope, just 21, gave a decent impression of Asprilla, the Newcastle maverick, on a very good day. Gangly, almost ungainly, he led Southampton a merry dance and enjoyed himself hugely.

It was Wanchope who scored the second goal after a lovely interchange with Baiano, an Italian back-heel sending the big striker bullocking through three defenders before finding the corner of the net. Three minutes later, more tricks from Wanchope and Eranio put Baiano through for No 3. A minute after that, Carsley swapped passes with Wanchope, turned inside Lundekvam and that was four. Southampton stared at the floor and wished that the lush grass under their feet would swallow them up, a mood not helped by Derby chants of "You're going down with Barnsley" and "Cheerio, cheerio" echoing around them.

Jones the manager looked suitably crestfallen afterwards, his opposite number, Jim Smith, suitably pleased. He is another touched by the surreal nature of life at Pride Park, waxing lyrical on the merits of having so many overseas players at his disposal, describing, with a straight face, Wanchope's background as a gifted basketball player. Jim Smith, for heaven's sake! The archetypal, hard-bitten boss of the old school. It was hard to believe.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): M Poom — C Daily, I Simac, J Laursen — G Rowett (sub: P Trollope, 78min), S Eranio, L Carsley, C Powell — D Burton, F Baiano, F Wanchope
SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd (sub: D Hughes, 72), C Lundekvam, R Dryden, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson, A Nelson — S Johansen (sub: A Williams, 45) — K Davies, M Evans
Referee: K Burge

Fitful Emerson 39
Motherwell's reward 39
Results and tables 38

Latin duo's dance routine completes Pleat's day



Carbone: hit the crossbar

IN THE week that Fabrizio Ravanelli bade farewell to English football, leaving for a club that could more readily satisfy his self-esteem (if not his bank balance), two of his countrymen served notice that there is still much to admire about the Italian influence on these shores. Ravanelli's departure from Middlesbrough to Marseilles may have left a sour taste, but, at Villa Park on Saturday, the displays of Paolo di Canio and Benito Carbone did much to restore the perhaps tarnished Latin image.

Di Canio and Carbone, the Sheffield Wednesday strikers, have had their problems, too. Di Canio withheld his pre-season services at Celtic until the Scottish club could take no more and shipped him off to Hillsborough for £4.5 million; Carbone almost came to blows with David Hirst, his team-mate, in the 5-2 embarrassment against Derby County in midweek. They are highly-paid, highly-strung performers, often walking an emotional tightrope in the FA Carling Premiership.

Yet, against Aston Villa, when they started up front together for the first time, there was no temper nor tantrum. An occasionally suspect fumble in the tackle, a few theatrical gestures and grimaces, but hardly enough to inflame the passions of those in opposition. What they produced — a series of shakes and shimmies, fancy flicks and perceptive passes — had the Villa defenders frequently glowering at each other in bewildered accusation.

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, waxed lyrical in his inimitable, roundabout fashion. "If I see beautiful play, something clever, something special, the game can pass me by," he said. "That's what I saw out there from the Italians. They run at people, around people; they're exciting and excitable. In my old age, I'm going to sit back and watch little snippets of them playing."

ASTON VILLA 2
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

By Russell Kempson

As pensioner Pleat rocks gently in his chair, viewing by the light of the log fire, it should prove a pleasurable experience: Di Canio, 29, in his silly white boots and impossibly tight shorts, weaving in and out of his mesmerised markers. "He's mature, very professional," Pleat said. And Carbone, 26, his long hair flapping, teasing his way through the tiniest of gaps. "He's more youthful," Pleat said. "A bit of a baby."

Villa could barely cope in the first half, which does not bode too well for their next experience of continental flair, when they take on Bordeaux tomorrow in the return leg of their Uefa Cup first-round tie. The 0-0 draw from the initial encounter in France a fortnight ago does not appear so healthy after all.

Wednesday had already twice struck woodwork. Carbone nodding Di Canio's centre against the crossbar and Whittingham shaving a post with a crisp drive, before Collins headed them in front from close range in the 25th minute. The Villa defence, not for the only time, went walkabout.

Staunton redressed the balance with a left-footed humdinger from 30 yards, but it was short-lived, for Di Canio crossed to the far post where Whittingham easily climbed above Wright, all 5ft 4in of him, to apply the finishing touch. It was cancelled out five minutes into the second half when Taylor capitalised on smart work by Nelson.

Villa ended with a two-pronged attack of Collymore, again either offside or ineffective, and Milosevic, the stumbling Serb. Little had decided to withdraw Yorke into a deeper role. At least it made for an interesting and, at times, amusing comparison with their Italian counterparts.

As Pleat left, he was asked about reports suggesting that Carbone was unhappy in England and pining for real pasta and parmesan. "Rubbish," he replied, dismissing the article as fiction. "Anyway," he said, "he's no Ravanelli."

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate — F Nelson (sub: G Charles, 78min), S Curcic (sub: S Milosevic, 59), I Taylor, M Draper, A Wright — D Yorke, S Collymore
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): M Clarke — I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic, L Briscoe — G Whittingham, J Magilton, W Collins, M Pembridge (sub: A Pond, 73) — B Carbone, P di Canio
Referee: N Barry

No laughter from Coppell as Johansen appears at Palace

CRYSTAL PALACE 2
BOLTON WANDERERS 2

By Keith Pike

THE more things change in football (to have to call linesmen "referee's assistants" is one thing for a traditionalist; to have to call them Wendy quite another), the more they stay the same. Crystal Palace still cannot win at home.

That is not to say that they cannot win at Selhurst Park, as Wimbledon, their tenants, can testify, but give Palace their regular dressing-room, a 2-0 lead and an expectant crowd, as they enjoyed on Saturday, and their supporters can sit back, safe in the knowledge that something other than victory is just around the corner. Steve Coppell refuses to subscribe to the "hoodoo" theory, but this is getting decidedly spooky.

Given their home form, the Palace manager might have been less worried by the sight of Wendy Toms's name on the programme — David Elleray and his team were excellent, as it happens — than the fact that the fourth official was one J. Beadle. His suspicions were about to be confirmed.

Bolton Wanderers had already halved their deficit when the aforementioned Mr Beadle supervised a 62nd-minute substitution. Off went the tall, muscle-bound Jamie Pollock, to be replaced by someone who, had he been wearing a trilby hat, a ludicrous false beard and carrying a hidden microphone, could hardly have cut it less as a top-flight footballer. At 5ft 6in, with flame-red hair and shorts at least five sizes too big, Michael Johansen looked more suited to the juniors' half-time penalty competition rather than the FA Carling Premiership, but, within a couple of minutes, he had burst forward to get the decisive touch to Blake's low cross.

"Don't worry chaps, it's a set-up," you could imagine Coppell whispering in the dugout. "Yes, yes, very funny. That disguise can't fool me, Jeremy. Now take your camera crew and [expletive] off, this is a [expletive] important match. What? You mean . . ."

Johansen is real enough — he cost £1 million from FC Copenhagen and his twin brother, Martin, plays for Coventry City — and his goal was no more than Bolton deserved. They had refused to panic when Warhurst and Gordon plundered goals for Palace in the opening 18 minutes, got the luck they needed through Beardsley's stick-out-a-leg-and-hope reply before the interval and played the better football for the last hour.

"There is no jinx," Coppell insisted. "We have played two belting sides in Chelsea and Blackburn, against Barnsley it could have gone the other way and today we were 2-0 up. It has got nothing to do with a hoodoo. This is a strong division and perhaps we don't have the players to unluck a defence, whereas away from home we can do it on the break."

Bolton, meanwhile, pronounced themselves "bitterly disappointed" with a draw, even though it had needed a fine double save by Branagan to prevent them going 3-0 down and a bad miss by Freedman, who was immediately substituted, to hold on for a point.

"With all due respect to Crystal Palace, I feel we should come to places like this and win," Colin Todd, the manager, said. Why not? Everybody else does.

CRYSTAL PALACE (3-5-2): K Miller — A Linighan, M Edworthy, H Hreidarsson — K Muscat (sub: R Quinn, 72min), A Lombardo, A Roberts, J Fullarton, D Gordon — D Freedman (sub: N Shipperley, 72), P Warhurst (sub: C Veart, 75).
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): K Branagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, G Taggart, M Whitlow — J Pollock (sub: M Johansen, 62), P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — P Beardsley — N Blake
Referee: D Elleray

Pressure grows on Francis as gamble fails to bring net gains

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
WIMBLEDON 0

By Matt Dickinson

ONE can only hope that Gerry Francis does not give his team talks as he does his press conferences: monotone voice barely rising above a mumble, eyes fixed to the floor, like a miscreant fourth former hauled into the headmaster's study. The Tottenham Hotspur manager shuffles uncomfortably in and out of his inquisitions and he, too, must be getting fed up with reeling off the same old excuses.

Patience is wearing thin at White Hart Lane and the snarling youth who sent a volley of abuse hurtling after Francis as he disappeared down the players' tunnel on Saturday will not have been appeased by claims, fair as they undoubtedly were, that Ferdinand and Armstrong are still several weeks short of match fitness.

After just six goals in eight FA Carling Premiership games before this lifeless encounter, Francis not only gambled on throwing the pair of strikers together for the first time, despite their patent lack of preparation, but also on parading a midfield that Ossie Ardiles might have described as suicidally adventurous.

With three wingers in Ginola, Dominguez and Fox alongside Clemence, for whom attack comes easier than defence, a goalless draw looked impossible. Yet Tottenham managed it for the second week running — a sequence that their increasingly frustrated fans feel will not be ended, however Francis deploys his troops.

Francis could rightly claim that his side had their chances. Fox missed the best when poor control cost him a simple opportunity and he shot against the post. There was little conviction about much of Tottenham's play, though, and Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, thought that his team were unfairly denied victory when the impressive Cort was ruled offside as he finished off a Cunningham cross.

"I took a gamble," Francis said. "It was the most attacking line-up I have ever put out. I wanted to give it a go and try and win the game in the first hour. I thought we created plenty of chances, but, again, we just cannot put the ball in the back of the net."

That was despite the trickery of Ginola, who tormented Wimbledon's defence to the point where their only answer was to kick him as hard as possible in the shins. It summed up the frustration of Tottenham's afternoon that only one player was booked — incredibly, the Frenchman for losing his patience after yet another dig off the ball from Thatcher.

Dominguez, too, showed flashes of wonderful skill, but Ferdinand and Armstrong were simply not up to the task of finishing off a succession of crosses. The attacking pair may yet come good, but the Tottenham supporters clearly feel that their manager has already used up much of their patience, sitting in apathetic silence for most of the game and only bothering to raise their voices with a chorus of jeers at the end.

Already there is speculation about Francis's possible successors and Kinnear, undoubtedly one of the favourites, was asked if his next visit to White Hart Lane might be as an employee. He neatly sidestepped the question, but it may not be too long before it is being asked again.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, G Mabbutt, S Campbell, R Vega — R Fox (sub: A Nielsen, 78min), J Dominguez, S Clemence, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, C Armstrong
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — C Hughes, V Jones (sub: B Thatcher, 36), R Earle, M Hughes — E Ekoku (sub: J Euell, 83), C Cort
Referee: P Durkin

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 **SHEFF WED** (2) 2
Staunton 32
Taylor 49
32,044
Collins 26
Whitlinghan 42

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, F Nelson (sub: G Charles, 78min), S Staunton, G Southgate, U Ehiogu, A Wright, I Taylor, M Draper, S Corica (sub: S Milosevic, 58min), D Yorke, S Collymore
Sheffield Wednesday: M Clarke, L Bregoce, I Nolan, M Pembridge (sub: A Pcric, 72min), W Collins, D Walker, G Whittingham, B Carbone, J Magilton, D Sletsenov, P Di Canio.
Referee: N Barry.

BARNSLEY (0) 0 **LEICESTER** (0) 2
18,660
Marshall 55
Fenton 63

Barnsley: L Leese, M Appleby, D Sheridan, A Moses, A De Zeeuw, N Redfearn, A Liddell (sub: C Marcelle, 70min), E Thider (sub: M Bullock, 64min), A Knzan, P Barnard, A Ward.
Booked: Thider, Sheridan, Moses.
Leicester City: K Keller, M Izzet, N Lennon, E Heskey (sub: S Claridge, 78min), R Savage, P Kaamark, S Prior, M Elliott, I Marshall, G Fenton (sub: A Cottee, 67min), S Guppy.
Booked: Marshall, Kaamark, Lennon
Referee: G Poll

CHELSEA (0) 1 **NEWCASTLE** (0) 0
Poyet 75
31,563

Chelsea: E De Goey, F Leboeuf, B Lambowitz, G Poyet, D Wise, G Le Saux, R Di Matteo (sub: M Hughes, 58min), A Myers, T Flo, P Hughes (sub: F Sinclair, 25min), G Zola.
Newcastle United: S Given, W Barton, J Beresford (sub: S Howey, 61min), D Batty, D Peacock, I Rush, J Barnes (sub: K Gillespie, 75min), J Tomasson (sub: T Kelsbaia, 56min), S Watson, A Pistone, P Albert.
Booked: Watson.
Referee: M A Riley.

C PALACE (2) 2 **BOLTON** (1) 2
Warhurst 9
Gordon 19
17,134
Beardsley 36
Johansen 66

Crystal Palace: K Miller, P Edworthy, D Gordon, A Roberts, A Leighan, A Lombardo, P Warhurst (sub: C Vear, 77min).

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BURY (0) 1 **WEST BROM** (2) 3
Lucketh 90
6,439
Peschisolido 10, 45, 61

CHARLTON (1) 1 **STOCKPORT** (0) 3
Mortimer 40
12,083
Armstrong 69
Angell 71
Rufus 78 (og)

CREWE (1) 2 **TRANMERE** (0) 1
Anthrobus 27
Street 89
Stevens 60
4,845

MAN CITY (3) 6 **SWINDON** (0) 0
29,646
Kinkladze 7
Cooper 17 (og)
Horlock 37
Dickov 50, 59
Bradbury 80

NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 **STOKE** (0) 0
Campbell 67
19,018

OXFORD UTD (0) 0 **BRADFORD** (0) 0
6,468

PORT VALE (2) 2 **QPR** (0) 0
Snijders 17
Naylor 20
7,197

PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 **READING** (1) 2
9,593
Hodges 15
Williams 86

SHEFF UTD (0) 0 **BIRMINGHAM** (0) 0
20,553
Sent off: D Wassall (Birmingham) 85

WOLVERHAMPTON (1) 1 **HUDDERSFIELD** (1) 1
Bull 1
21,723
Stewart 32

Yesterday

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 **MIDDLESBRO** (0) 2
Ball 90
35,384
Emerson 68
Mustoe 79

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Norwich City 2 Ipswich Town 1.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 3 **SOUTHEND** (0) 0
Bortner 12 Ellis 80
Clarkson 88
4,542

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0 **GRIMSBY** (0) 1
3,712
Groves 57

BRENTFORD (1) 2 **BURNLEY** (0) 1
Hutchings 2
Rapley 89
Ford 57
4,548
Sent off: L Howey (Burnley) 80

BRISTOL CITY (3) 3 **LUTON** (0) 0
Bell 5 (pen)
Torpey 27, 31
8,509

CARLISLE (0) 2 **GILLINGHAM** (0) 1
Archdeacon 48
Pounewatchy 63
Butters 80 (pen)
5,063

NORTHAMPTON (0) 2 **MILLWALL** (0) 0
Sampson 53
Hunter 65 (pen)
6,578
Sent off: P Sturgess (Millwall) 62

OLDHAM (3) 4 **BRISTOL R** (3) 4
Barlow 6, 23
McCarthy 26
Garnett 59
5,990
Beadle 30, 33
Hayles 49
Cureton 87 (pen)

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 **WALSALL** (1) 1
Barlow 34, 70
6,207
Bolt 31

WATFORD (0) 1 **YORK** (1) 1
Lee 72
13,812
Tolson 34

WIGAN (1) 2 **FULHAM** (1) 1
Johnson 26
Greenall 89
Hayward 19
4,951

WREXHAM (0) 0 **CHESTERFIELD** (0) 0
3,921

WYCOMBE (0) 0 **PRESTON** (0) 0
4,838
Sent off: P McCarthy (Wycombe) 29

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (0) 0 **LINCOLN** (0) 0
1,734

BRIGHTON (1) 2 **ROCHDALE** (1) 1
Morris 15
York 73
Bayliss 33
1,544

CAMBRIDGE U (0) 2 **CARDIFF** (1) 2
Barnwell 50, 79
2,728
Greenacre 31
Eckhardt 90

COLCHESTER (0) 1 **EXETER** (1) 2
Abrahams 52
3,175
Rowbotham 28
Flack 56
Sent off: D Greene (Colchester) 62

DARLINGTON (0) 0 **MANSFIELD** (0) 0
2,596

HARTLEPOOL (3) 2 **SHREWSBURY** (0) 1
Ingram 2 (pen)
Cullen 11
Evans 78 (pen)
2,253

MACCLESFIELD (0) 1 **PETERBOROUGH** (0) 1
Landon 87 (pen)
3,079
Houghton 80

ROTHERHAM (3) 4 **CHESTER** (0) 2
White 16
Box 38, 41
Glover 47
Alstead 69
Priest 75
3,061

SCARBOROUGH (1) 1 **NOTTS COUNTY** (1) 2
Campbell 12
2,751
Barraclough 3 (pen)
Farrell 75

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 **HULL** (0) 0
Forrester 4
Calvo-Garcia 60
4,905

SWANSEA (0) 1 **L ORIENT** (0) 1
Bird 58
3,494
Clark 71

TORQUAY (1) 2 **DONCASTER** (0) 0
Hill 1
Haygood 48
1,650

D Freedman (sub: N Shepperley, 73min), K Muscat (sub: R Quinn, 72min), H Henderson, J Fullarton
Booked: Fullarton, Muscat
Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, P Frandsen, G Taggart, S Pollock (sub: M Johansen, 61min), S Sellars, N Blake, A Thompson, G Bergsson, P Beardsley, A Todd, M Whitlow
Booked: Frandsen, Sellars, Todd.
Referee: D R Elleray.

DERBY (0) 4 **SOUTHAMPTON** (0) 0
Eranio 76 (pen)
Wanchope 79
Baiano 82
Carsley 83
25,625

Derby County: M Poom, G Rowett (sub: P Trollope, 79min), D Powell, I Sima, P Wanchope, J Laursen, L Carsley, S Eranio, C Daily, D Burton, F Baiano.
Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd (sub: D Hughes, 73min), C Lundekvam, R Dryden, F Benali, K Richardson, A Neilson, C Palmer, S Johansen (sub: A Williams, 45min), M Evans, K Davies.
Booked: Neilson, Davies.
Referee: K Burge.

EVERTON (0) 2 **ARSENAL** (2) 2
Ball 49
Cadamarteri 56
35,457
Wright 32
Overmars 41

Everton: P Gerrard, E Barrett, T Phelan, S Ellis, D Watson, Ball, G Stuart, T Grant (sub: G McCann, 70min), D Cadamarteri, G Speed, J Oster.
Arsenal: D Seaman, N Winterburn, P Vieira (sub: R Garde, 69min), S Bould, A Adams, I Wright, D Bergkamp, M Overmars (sub: L Boa Morte, 64min), R Parlour (sub: D Platt, 77min), E Petit, G Grimandi
Referee: A Wilkie.

LEEDS (1) 1 **MAN UTD** (0) 0
Wetherall 34
39,952

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, J Robertson, A Haaland, L Radebe, D Wetherall, R Wallace, F Ribeiro, D Hopkin (sub: R Molenaar, 79min), G Halle, H Kewell.
Booked: Haaland, Kelly, Wetherall
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville (sub: P Neville, 73min), D Irwin, G Pallister, D Beckham, E Sheringham, K Poborsky (sub: B Thornley, 73min), R Keane, P Scholes (sub: R Johnsen, 57min), O G Solskjaer, H Berg.
Booked: Scholes, Keane, P Neville
Referee: M Bodenham.

TOTTENHAM (0) 0 **WIMBLEDON** (0) 0
26,261

Tottenham Hotspur: J Walker, G Mabbutt, R Fox (sub: A Nielsen, 78min), L Ferdinand, C Armstrong, S Carr, D Ginola, R Vega, J Dominguez, S Campbell, Clemence.
Booked: Ginola.
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones (sub: B Thatcher, 46min), D Blackwell, C Hughes, R Earle, E Ekoku (sub: J Ewell, 84min), C Perry, C Carl, M Hughes.
Referee: P Durkin.

WEST HAM (1) 2 **LIVERPOOL** (0) 1
Harrison 15
Berkovic 65
25,908
Fowler 52

West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, D Unsworth, J Hartson, S Lomas, I Dowie, R Ferdinand, F Lampard, I Pearce, A Impey, E Berkovic.
Booked: Ferdinand.
Liverpool: D James, B Kvarme (sub: D Murphy, 70min), P Babb, S Mcklennan, R Fowler, P Berger (sub: K Riedle, 75min), M Thomas (sub: J McAteer, 70min), P Ince, M Owen, S Bjornebye, J Carragher.
Booked: Thomas.
Referee: D Gallagher

Yesterday

BLACKBURN (0) 0 **COVENTRY** (0) 0
19,086
Sent off: J Wilcox (Blackburn) 69
D Dublin (Coventry) 42

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, K Gallacher, C Sutton, M Dahlin, J Wilcox, G Flitcroft, P Valery, S Henchoz.
Booked: Sherwood
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, D Burrows, G Breen, D Hackshaw, D Dublin, G McAllister, P Telfer, W Boland, M Hall, R Nilsson.
Referee: P Jones.

THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

TODAY

COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second leg: West Ham (0) v Huddersfield (1) (7.45)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kidderminster v Cheltenham, Northwich v Gateshead

TOMORROW

UEFA CUP: First round, second leg: Arsenal (0) v PAOK Salonica (1) (8.0), Aston Villa (0) v Bordeaux (0) (7.45), Leicester (1) v Atletico Madrid (2) (7.45); Liverpool (2) v Celtic (2) (8.0); Rangers (1) v RC Strasbourg (2) (7.45)
COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second leg: Barnsley (2) v Chesterfield (1) (7.45), Bolton (3) v Leyton Orient (1) (8.0), Brentford (1) v Southampton (3) (7.45); Bristol City (1) v Leeds (3) (7.45); Carlisle (2) v Tottenham (3) (7.45); Crystal Palace (0) v Hull (1) (7.45); Preston (0) v Blackburn (6) (7.45)
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Halifax v Leek; Woking v Dover

WEDNESDAY

EUROPEAN CUP: Champions' League: Group A: Borussia Dortmund v Sparta Prague (7.45); Parma v Galatasaray (7.45) Group B: Feyenoord v FC Kosice (7.45); Manchester United v Juventus (7.45). Group C: Barcelona v PSV Eindhoven (7.45), Dinamo Kev v Newcastle (7.45). Group D: FC Porto v Real Madrid (7.45); Rosenborg v Olympiakos FC (7.45). Group E: Besiktas v Paris St Germain (7.45); IFK Gothenburg v Bayern Munich (7.45) Group F: AS Monaco v Bayer Leverkusen (7.45); Lierse SK v Sporting Lisbon (7.45).
COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second leg: Coventry (0) v Blackpool (1) (7.45); Derby (1) v Southend (0) (7.45); Everton (1) v Scunthorpe (0) (8.0); Millwall (1) v Wimbledon (5) (7.45). Sheffield Wednesday (0) v Grimsby (2) (7.45)

THURSDAY

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round, second leg: Kilmarnock (1) v Nice (3); Slovan Bratislava (0) v Chelsea (2) (7.35)

FRIDAY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Huddersfield v Nottingham Forest (7.45).

SATURDAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP. Arsenal v Barnsley; Bolton v Aston Villa; Coventry v Leeds; Manchester United v Crystal Palace, Newcastle v Tottenham; Sheffield Wednesday v Everton; Southampton v West Ham, Wimbledon v Blackburn
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Crewe; Bradford v Wolverhampton; Ipswich v Manchester City; Queens Park Rangers v Charlton; Reading v Sunderland; Stockport v Portsmouth; Stoke v Bury; Swindon v Port Vale, Tranmere v Norwich, West Bromwich v Oxford United. Second division: Bristol Rovers v Wrexham, Burnley v Wycombe, Chesterfield v Bournemouth, Fulham v Oldham, Gillingham v Bristol City; Grimsby v Wigan; Luton v Watford; Millwall v Blackpool; Preston v Brentford; Southend v Northampton; Walsall v Carlisle; York v Plymouth. Third division: Cardiff v Barnet; Chester v Hartlepool, Doncaster v Brighton; Exeter v Scarborough, Hull v Torquay, Leyton Orient v Macclesfield; Lincoln v Cambridge United; Mansfield v Colchester; Notts County v Darlington; Peterborough v Swansea; Rochdale v Scunthorpe; Shrewsbury v Rotherham
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Northwich; Farnborough v Hayes; Halifax v Kettering; Hednesford v Kidderminster; Leek v Slough, Morecambe v Dover; Rushden & Diamonds v Woking; Stalybridge v Yeovil; Stevenage v Gateshead; Telford v Hereford; Welling v Southport.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Kilmarnock, Dunfermline v Dundee United Hibernian v Rangers; Motherwell v Hearts, St Johnstone v Aberdeen First division: Ayr v Stirling; Dundee v Airdrie, Greenock Morton v Raith; Hamilton v St Mirren; Partick v Falkirk. Second division: Clyde v Livingston, Clydebank v Stranraer; East Fife v Queen of South; Forfar v Inverness CT; Stenhousemuir v Brechin. Third division: Arbroath v Albion; Berwick v Cowdenbeath, East Stirling v Dumbarton; Queen's Park v Montrose; Ross County v Alloa.

SUNDAY

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Liverpool v Chelsea (4.0)
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Middlesbrough v Sheffield United (1.0).



Jordao, right, of Benfica, challenges Marco Aurelio, of Sporting Lisbon, during their Portuguese League match which ended as a 0-0 draw. Photograph: Luis Ferreira

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

HAYES (2) 4 **HEDNESFORD** (0) 0
Randall 13
Haynes 43, 85
Roddis 90
632

HEREFORD (2) 3 **STALYBRIDGE** (0) 0
Milner 32
Foster 45
Pitman 85
2,312

KIDDERMNSTR (2) 2 **FARNBOROUGH** (0) 0
Brindley 11
Smith 45
1,567

NORTHWICH (0) 1 **STEVENAGE** (0) 1
Carroll 78
954
Perkins 46

Sent off: S Perkins (Stevenage) 78

SOUTHPORT (1) 3 **RUSHDEN & D** (1) 2
Whittaker 24, 56
Deary 59
1,116
Foster 23
Rawle 72

WOKING (0) 0 **MORECAMBE** (0) 2
3,076
Monk 61
Mayers 89

	P	W	D	L	HOME F	A	W	D	L	AWAY F	A	Pt
1 Morecambe	9	5	1	1	10	7	4	0	0	12	1	22
2 Halifax	8	5	0	0	10	2	3	1	0	8	3	20
3 Cheltenham	10	3	2	0	8	3	3	1	1	8	6	18
4 Hereford	11	3	3	0	12	5	3	1	2	9	8	18
5 Hednesford	10	3	2	0	6	3	3	2	1	8	11	18
6 Hayes	11	3	1	2	11	7	3	1	2	9	6	17
7 Southport	10	3	1	1	11	6	3	0	3	7	5	17
8 Woking	10	2	2	1	5	3	3	1	2	7	6	16
9 Welling	10	3	1	1	8	5	2	1	3	7	10	14
10 Dover	9	3	1	1	6	2	2	1	3	6	5	13
11 Stevenage	11	1	2	2	3	7	3	2	3	8	6	13
12 Farnborough	11	3	2	0	8	3	1	1	4	6	15	13
13 Kidderminster	10	3	2	0	7	3	1	1	3	6	12	13
14 Yeovil	8	3	0	1	9	5	1	0	2	4	5	12
15 Slough	10	3	1	1	8	6	2	0	3	7	12	12
16 Northwich	9	1	4	0	3	2	1	3	2	6	9	11
17 Rushden	10	1	1	3	6	9	2	2	4	6	11	11
18 Telford	9	1	2	1	5	6	2	1	5	6	10	9
19 Stalybridge	9	2	1	1	10	8	0	0	4	0	6	7
20 Leek	10	1	1	3	7	10	0	2	3	4	12	6
21 Gateshead	8	1	1	3	7	10	0	0	3	7	8	4
22 Kettering	9	0	1	4	5	10	0	0	3	1	4	5

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

FA CUP

SECOND QUALIFYING ROUND: Walton and Hersham 0 Slough 0; Tilbury 3 Wingate and Finchley 0; Dover 0 Kingsionian 4, Metropolitan Police 2 Wivenhoe 2; Braintree 3 Chesham 0; Windsor and Eton 2 Barton 5; Margate 4 Harrow 0; Portfield 1 Deal 1; Reading 3 Stansted 0; Bolton 1 Romford 6; Aylesbury 0 Carshalton 3, Wembley 1 Fisher 3; Billericay 2 Dulwich Hamlet 1; Ruislip Manor 0 Erith and Belvedere 0, Barking 3 Hanwell 0; Merthyr Tydfil 0 Cheltenham 2; Bridgwater 2 Poulton 4; Worcester 1 Yeovil 2; Chippenham 1 Wokingham 1; Dorchester 1 Forest Green 0; Tiverton 11 Wimborne 1; Basingstoke 1 Bath 1; Fleet 2 Caine 3; Salisbury 2 Weston-super-Mare 2; Buckingham Town 0 Taunton 2; Gloucester 2 Newport (IoW) 1; Portsmouth Royal Navy 1 Waterlooville 1; Gateshead 1 Gainsborough High 4, South Shields 2 Marine Road 0, Hallam 4 Leigh R M I 0; Burscough 1 Ossett Town 4, Chorley 2 Bishop Auckland 2; Ilkeston 7 RTM Newcastle 1; Whitby 1 Winsford 4, Arnold 2 Shotton Comrades 0; Hyde 4 Lancaster 1, Ryhope C A 2 St Helens 1; Durham 0 Emley 5, Belper Town 2 Parkgate 2, Morpeth 0 North Ferriby 0; Gretna 3 Liversedge 1, Garforth 0 Blyth Spartans 1, Brigg 1 Workzop 1, Bamber Bridge 1 Marine 3, Clitheroe 1 Lincoln 3, Guiseley 0 Farsley Celtic 0; Penrith 6 Easington Colliery 3, Bedworth 1 Nuneaton 1, Stourbridge 2 Bridgnorth 1; Kettering 1 Cambridge City 1; Hinckley 2 Great Yarmouth 0; Sudbury Wanderers 1 Bromsgrove 1, Brackley 0 Rocester 0, Knypersley 3 Gresley 1; Spalding 2 Lowestoft 1, Rothwell 1 Halesowen Town 1, Redditch 3 Willenhall 1; Bilston 1 Kings Lynn 2; Newmarket 1 V S Rugby 2; Solihull 2 Grantham 1; Woodbridge 4 Boldmere St Michaels 2; Whyteleafe 0 Heybridge Swifts 2, Marlow 2 Hackwell Heath 3, St Leonards Stamcroft 2 Canvey Island 0; Grays 1 Camberley 2; Bognor Regis 2 Hastings 1; Croydon 2 Aveley 0; Sittingbourne 2 Purfleet 1; Langney Sports 3 Dorking 0; Welling 2 Sutton 2; Tonbridge 3 Worthing 0, Dartford 1 Staines 2.

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Alfreton 0 Barrow 3, Altrincham 1 Boston 2; Colwyn Bay 2 Runcorn 1, Frickley 2 Accrington Stanley 1, Radcliffe 0 Spennymoor 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	10	6	3	1	19	6	21
Boston Utd	11	5	5	1	16	8	20
Winsford Utd	6	5	0	1	11	4	15
Colwyn Bay	10	4	3	3	15	17	15
Hyde Utd	7	4	2	1	13	7	14
Spennymr	3	4	2	2	13	11	14
Frickley	7	4	1	2	10	8	13
Lancaster	7	4	0	3	16	14	12
Gainsboro	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Guiseley	9	2	5	2	14	13	11
Altrincham	9	3	1	5	14	10	10
Emley	7	3	1	3	13	12	10
Runcorn	8	3	1	4	10	12	10
Manno	7	2	3	2	8	7	9
Bishop Auck	7	2	3	2	7	9	9
Accrington S	9	3	0	6	9	15	9
Blyth Spartans	8	2	2	4	8	11	8
Bamber Bridge	7	2	1	4	11	14	7
Radcliffe Bo	9	1	3	5	8	17	6
Chorley	8	1	2	5	10	21	5
Alfreton Town	9	1	1	7	5	19	4

FIRST DIVISION: Bradford P A 3 Nothenfield 1, Buxton 1 Great Harwood 2, Congleton 0 Ashton 3 Droylsden 3 Trafford 1, Eastwood Town 0 Matlock Town 0; Flixton 6 Workington 0, Hanogate Town 2 Whitley Bay 2, Stocksbridge PS 3 Witton 0

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Darlaston 5 Westfields 1; Ettingshall 1 Kington 3 Gornal 3 Ludlow 1, Lye 2 Bromwich 1; Malvern 0 Wolverhampton Casuals 0; Stourport 2 Brierley Hill 1; Tividale 0 Stafford 3 Walsall Wood 0 Bustleholme 3, Wolverhampton 0 Cradley 1.
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bloxwich Town 3 Stapenhill 2; Chasetown 3 Shifnal T 0; Halesowen H 1 Wednesfield 0; Pelsall V 0 Oldbury U 0, Pershore T 1 Rushall O 3, Sandwell 3 Stratford T 0, Barwell 1 W Mid Police 1

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 3 Crawley 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Forest Green	9	8	1	0	26	9	25
Crawley Town	10	7	1	2	22	15	22
Merthyr	9	5	2	2	18	10	17
Halesowen	10	4	4	2	13	5	16
Bath	9	4	4	1	18	13	16
Kings Lynn	9	4	4	1	14	11	16
Worcester City	9	5	1	3	12	11	16
Bromsgrve	9	5	0	4	23	15	15
Dorchester	9	4	3	2	10	6	15
Nuneaton	8	4	2	2	25	12	14
Atherstone	9	4	2	3	13	12	14
Hastings	9	3	3	3	18	16	12
Gloucester City	8	3	2	3	8	8	11
Rothwell Town	9	2	5	2	15	20	11
Salisbury	9	3	1	5	12	19	10
Cambs City	9	2	3	4	13	17	9
Burton Albion	9	2	2	5	8	12	8
Stittingbourne	9	2	1	6	11	18	7
Tamworth	8	1	3	4	14	18	6
Ashford Town	9	2	0	7	8	18	6
Gresley Rovers	8	1	1	6	7	25	4
St Leonards	9	0	1	8	6	26	1

MIDLAND DIVISION: Blakenall 2 Sutton Coldfield Town 2; Evesham 0 Moor Green 2; Paget 1 Rounds 5; Wisbech 2 Shepshed Dynamo 2 Southern division: Cirencester 0 Weymouth 4, Newport AFC 1 Chelmsford 2, Trowbridge 3 Bashley 1, Witney 0 Baldock 0

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 1 Chipstead 3, Farnham 1 Westfield 3 Godalming and Guilford 4 Cobham 3; Hartley Wintney 3 Feltham 2, Merstham 4 Viking Sports 3, Netherne 0 Ashford 3; Raynes Park Vale 3 Cranleigh 2, Reading 3 Chessington and Hook 0, Sandhurst 1 Bedfont 1
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham 1 Whitstable 1, Corinthian 1 Faversham 1, Greenwich 3 Cray 0, Hythe 2 Tunbridge Wells 0; Lordswood 0 Folkestone Invicta 2, Slade Green 5 Canterbury 2, Thamesmead 1 Herne Bay 2, V C D 3 Crockenhill 1 Postponed: Chatham v Ramsgate
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bolehill Swifts 3 Alvechurch 2; Continental Star 5 Bilston Community College 2, David Lloyd A F C 1 Worcester 1; G P T (Coventry) 2 Highgate 2, Handsheen Timbers 0 Meir N A 4, Kings Heath 4 Kenilworth 0; Knowle 3 Dudley Sports 1, Southam 0 Studley B K L 0; Wellesbourne 1 Cheslyn Hay 2

ISTHMIAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Dagenham and Redbridge 1 Hendon 1, Enfield 0 St Albans 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutton Utd	9	7	0	2	25	11	21
Dag & Red	10	6	3	1	15	8	21
Kingstonian	9	5	4	0	18	5	19
St Albans	9	5	2	2	14	10	17
Heybridge	9	5	1	3	17	13	16
Enfield	10	4	3	3	13	12	15
Chesham	10	4	2	4	19	12	14
Purfleet	8	3	4	1	7	9	13
Boreham Wood	9	3	3	3	17	11	12
Bromley	10	3	3	4	14	13	12
Harrow Borough	8	4	0	4	12	13	12
Carshalton	9	3	3	3	15	18	12
Hendon	11	3	3	5	12	17	12
Aylesbury	8	4	0	4	8	13	12
Bishop's S	9	3	1	5	11	16	10
Walton & H	10	3	1	6	10	19	10
Yeading	8	3	3	3	8	10	9
Basingstoke	9	2	3	4	8	15	9
Dulwich	8	1	5	2	15	12	8
Oxford City	9	2	2	5	8	19	8
Gravesend & N	8	2	1	5	13	17	7
Hitchin	10	2	1	7	6	12	7

FIRST DIVISION: Chertsey 1 Leyton Pennant 1, Molesey 1 Abingdon Town 0; Thame United 0 Berkhamsted 1, Uxbridge 1 Aldershot Town 2; Hampton 2 Leatherhead 0, Second division: Bracknell 1 Chesham 1, Chalfont St Peter 2 Banstead 1; Horsham 0 Northwood 1, Leighton 0 Edgware 3; Witham 1 Hungerford 2, Third division: Croydon 0 Clapton 1; East Thurrock 1 Ford 0; Epsom and Ewell 2 Hornel Hempstead 1; Hornchurch 1 Ware 1, Lewes 4 Kingsbury 1; Southall 0 Hertford 1

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 1 Brentwood 1, Burnham Ramblers 0 Basildon 5, Great Wakering 3 Sawbridgeworth 0, Eton Manor 1 Ilford 1; Saffron Walden 1 Concord 8; Southend Manor 0 Hullbridge Sports 0
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 2 Highworth 1, Bicester 1 Hallen 1, Fairford 3 Didcot 1, Cheny Red Record Cup: Burnham 0 Banbury 0, Carterton 4 Wantage 1, Endsleigh 2 Swindon Supermarine 4, North Leigh 6 Kintbury 4, Shorewood 1 Almondsbury 0; Tuffley 0 Harrow Hill 1
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 0 Ely 2; Felixstowe Port and 0 Gorleston 1, Halstead 4 Diss 0; Histon 5 Fakenham 1; Tiptree 1 Stowmarket 3, Warboys 4 Harwich and Parkeston 1; Wroxham 1 Sudbury 1
FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round replay: Burgess Hill 2 Kingstonian 1

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury 2 Brockenhurst 0; Andover 3 Aerostructures 0, Bemerton Heath Harl 0 Lymington 2, Christchurch 5 Ryde Sports 2; Thatcham 2 East Cowes 1 Postponed: Downton v Gosport
UNIBET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham 0 Shoreham 2; Hassocks 2 Eastbourne Town 1, Peacehaven and Telscombe 0 Littlehampton 3; Redhill 0 Chichester 1, Ringmer 4 Arundel 2, Saltdean 1 Wick 2, John O'Hara League Cup: Second round: Nile Oak 1 Burgess Hill 9; Pagham 4 Bearsted 0; Selsey 1 Selsey 2
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 0 Ramsbottom 0; Glossop North End 1 Newcastle Town 1; Haslingden 3 Blackpool Rovers 3, Holker Old Boys 0 Rossendale 6, Kidsgrove 3 Chadderton 1, Nantwich 1 Mossley 1, Prescot Cables 0 Vauxhall GM 1; Salford 1 Darwen 0; Warrington 3 Atherton Collieries 4
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Curzon Ashton 0 Hucknall 0 Bodelshall 3 Hatfield Main 2; Easchoughton Wolfsare 4 Hallam 2; Maltby MW 1 Denaby 0; Ossett Albion 2 Pontefract Cols 2; Pickering 5 Selby 0; Sheffield 1 Armthorpe Welfare 2
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 0 Bridgnorth 4; Bridport 3 Odd Down 1, Elmore 1 Tonnington 2; Mangotsfield 2 Chard 3; Melksham 5 Barnstaple 1, Keynsham 2 Bristol Manor Farm 2, Westbury 1 Backwell 2
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge United 5 Crystal Palace 0, Charlton 2 Arsenal 0, Gillingham 0 Tottenham 3, Leyton Orient 1 Ipswich 0, Portsmouth 1 West Ham 1; Queens Park Rangers 0 Millwall 1, Southend 2 Fulham 2; Watford 3 Norwich 0 Second division: Brentford 0 Southampton 1; Brighton 2 Reading 0, Bristol City 2 Luton 2; Oxford 1 Colchester 2, Swindon 4 Bournemouth 2, Tottenham 0 Wycombe 4, Wimbledon 1 Bristol Rovers 7
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Norseman 4 Carshalton 2; Old Actonians 0 Civil Service 0; Polytechnic 1 Lensbury 1; South Bank Poly 0 Crouch End Vampires 0, West Wickham 2 Lloyds Bank 0; Old Parkonians 1 Old Salesians 2, Alexandra Park 6 Barclays Bank 3, Winchmore Hill 3 Cuoco 1; Nat West Bank 2 Old Owens 2, Old Latymerians 1 Midland Bank 1; Kew Association 2 Ibis 1, Brantham 2 Bank of England 2, Old Stationers 2 Merton 2; Alleyn OB 5 Southgate Olympic 1; Broomfield 5 Old Broomfians 2
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier

FOOTBALL

Sunderland finished off by fitful Emerson

Sunderland 1
Middlesbrough 2

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

IN FOOTBALLING terms, Sunderland and Middlesbrough are really privates trying to pass themselves off as colonels. They are relatively unimportant clubs that happen to be based in a part of the country that has traditionally produced plenty of players and, on this dismal showing, they will remain unimportant.

It takes some believing that Middlesbrough, who were absolutely woeful, ended as winners of this Nationwide League first division match yesterday. It strains credulity even farther that the man who helped them to win it was Emerson, the Brazilian show pony, who spent most of the afternoon braying and swishing his tail when he was not looking for somewhere to graze. Until Bryan Robson gets rid of him, he cannot expect to have a united dressing-room.

Whenever a move broke down, Emerson simply trotted back and let others get on with the business of retrieving the ball. It is unfair on the likes of Pearson and Fleming, who had excellent games in defence, that such an idler is permitted to do as he likes when he offers so little in return.

Having said that, his goal, in the 68th minute, was very good. Merson made it with a run along the left and from his pass, directed to the edge of the penalty area instead of the goalmouth, where Sunderland's defenders were regrouping, Emerson smacked a fierce volley past Perez. In view of what had happened hitherto, the impact of that strike was shocking.

The goal released a few inhibitions, as goals do. Now Middlesbrough had more opportunities to turn Sunderland on the break and from one of these, in the eightieth minute, Emerson and Merson combined to provide Mustoe with a chance that he took at the second attempt after Perez had blocked the first effort. Scarcely a person in the ground could believe what they had seen, so poor had Middlesbrough been.

Ball scrambled a goal in the first of the five minutes that Paul Rejer, the referee, added on, but that was no use for Sunderland, who should not need reminding that good intentions go only so far. They were relegated somewhat unfortunately last season and will not get back up again until they absorb the consequences of that failure.

Schwarzer, in the Middlesbrough goal, had only one save to make, from Williams. That was a tribute to the work of his defenders, but also a commentary on Sunderland's lack of directness. The fans sensed it and by the end of the match several thousand had left for home.

This was the first derby in the Stadium of Light, one of those cold, impersonal places that architects imagine will do service as a football ground. The atmosphere was strangely cold, too, which is no bad thing. Too often, "passion" on these occasions means fans screaming blue murder at officials, whose observation is a good deal clearer than their own.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): L Perez — C Makin, A Melville, R Ord, M Scott — D Williams, L Clark, K Ball, M Gray — A Rae, M Smith (sub: A Johnston, 73min)
MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): M Schwarzer — C Fleming, G Festa, N Pearson, V Kinder — A Ormerod (sub: A Moore, 64), Emerson, A Townsend, R Mustoe — M Beck, P Merson.
Referee: P Rejer

☐ Duncan Ferguson, the Everton striker, has written to the Scottish Football Association to say that he does not wish to be considered for international duty, according to reports yesterday. Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, told the *Sunday Mail* that he was "aware of the situation".

ALLSPORT



Perez, the Sunderland goalkeeper, is helpless as Mustoe, left, puts Middlesbrough 2-0 ahead yesterday

Angell makes a starry impact on Charlton

Charlton Athletic 1
Stockport County 3

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

ANY pools forecaster who predicted this result probably used an astrological chart. It was, surely, a home banker: Stockport County had lost all four of their away games in the Nationwide League first division before Saturday, while Charlton were moving up on the strength of a perfect league record at The Valley.

The suspicion that vertigo had got to his players was bothering Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager. "We were looking to go into the top three or four and it looked as if we didn't have it in us to do it, to take that other step, which is very disappointing," he said.

With a more assertive performance, Charlton could have established a comfortable lead by the hour, but had to settle for a single goal, scored by Paul Mortimer four minutes before half-time. Mortimer, who has been injured for much of the past four years, impressed with an early, twisting run followed by a shot against the woodwork and then left Nixon motionless when his long-range effort soared into the top corner.

However, with Jones and Mendonca missing chances and Mortimer suffering a recurrence of a hamstring injury, Stockport hung on. Marsden proving a competent director, and forced their way back into the match with a vengeance.

Brett Angell took centre stage. His seventieth-minute header from Marsden's corner was blocked by Petterson, but Armstrong scored from the rebound; his right-foot shot soared past Petterson three minutes later; then, when Armstrong, looking yards offside, crossed hard and low ten minutes from time, Rufus, seeking to deny the lurking Angell, only succeeded in doing his job for him.

"This league's always been the same," Curbishley said. "You can't predict any results." In other words, punters, it's back to the crystal ball next week.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Petterson — S Brown, R Rufus (sub: P Chapple, 82min), S Balmer, A Barness (sub: P Emblen, 76) — J Robinson, M Kinsella, K Jones, P Mortimer (sub: S Newton, 84) — C Mendonca, S Jones.
STOCKPORT COUNTY (3-5-2): E Nixon — A Dinning, C Woodthorpe, M McIntosh — S Connelly, J Gannon, K Cooper, C Marsden, D Searle (sub: M Nash, 59) — A Armstrong, B Angell.
Referee: J Kirkby.

Anxious Doncaster await the umpire

Torquay United 2
Doncaster Rovers 0

BY IVO TENNANT

ON THE English Riviera, there were two sports attractions during the past few days. One was the visit of Doncaster Rovers, without a manager, a victory all season or, quite conceivably, a future, and the other was the appearance, to sign copies of his autobiography, of Dickie Bird. Queues formed for only one of these events.

The attendance at Plainmoor, 1,650, was Torquay United's smallest of the season and, barring that to watch Brighton and Hove Albion, the lowest Football League attendance of the day. The queues to meet Bird on Friday were such that he was contemplating a best seller and another book signing 24 hours later.

Torquay are never out of the shadows. They won by two goals, but it was not much of a match. Rodney Jack, their forward from St Vincent, who is the subject of interest from some leading clubs, will not, presumably, be at Plainmoor for much longer.

Still, it could be worse. Doncaster are at the bottom of the Nationwide League third division and face their fourth winding-up order on Friday. The club will no longer exist if it goes into voluntary liquidation. There are potential buyers, but the owner, Ken Richardson, who at present also picks the team, has no immediate intention of selling his shareholding.

One winding-up order would be enough to affect the concentration of any player lacking managerial direction — but four! In this match, Doncaster achieved only one shot of note, from Prince Moncrieffe, who, with that name, should be performing at a more eye-catching level.

Torquay were without Jack, who is suspended for three matches, and included an 18-year-old trainee, Hapgood, who scored, breaking forward from midfield. So, too, did Hill, after just 35 seconds. Both players made the most of excellent opportunist passes by Clayton.

TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): M Gregg — J Robinson, J Gittens, A Watson — A Gurney, G Clayton, K Hill, L Hapgood, P Gibbs — T Bedeau (sub: J Newell, 74min), A McFarlane.
DONCASTER ROVERS (3-5-2): G Ingham — G Finley, A Thorpe (sub: J Dobbin, 54), A Mike — S Ireland, D Esdaille (sub: J Ramsay, 71), L Warren, H Cunningham, S Sanders — P Moncrieffe, M Pemberton (sub: P Conlon, 71).
Referee: B Knight.

Motherwell rewarded for ingenuity

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

"BRIAN MARTIN finds it difficult to put his foot down," Alex McLeish, the Motherwell manager, said. This statement was impeccable as a medical report, but it still sounded like slander. Throughout the 2-2 draw with Rangers at Ibrox on Saturday, the centre half had, after all, sought to impose his own will and to insist on his team's rights.

Last week, Martin claimed that although his heel injury caused him pain when he walked, it was much more comfortable when he ran. At small clubs, such curious assertions are not to be scrutinised. It was better simply to trust that Martin could play against Rangers. He wanted to be at Ibrox and Motherwell needed him.

Clubs that lack money and support must master all the mechanisms required to cope with an inhospitable world. With Marco Negri scoring his sixteenth goal of the season, Martin did not enjoy ascendancy, but his ruggedness ensured that Motherwell, who led 2-1 at the interval, were not razed to the ground by a Rangers' side that swung at them like a wrecker's ball in the second half.

Clubs such as Motherwell must be prized for the way in which they cope with an exasperating existence. A team made up of a curious jumble of biographies remains capable of matching a Rangers side of unimpeachable pedigree.

Martin, 34, was slow to re-sign for the Fir Park club in the summer. Stephen Woods is in the team principally because the established goalkeeper, Scott Howie, could not agree new terms. Others, such as Mickey Weir, arrived as discards from other clubs.

Then there is the smattering of youths, who are not supposed to possess the qualifications to cope with Rangers. After losing their best players, Paul Lambert and Rob McKinnon, for nothing after the Bosman ruling, Motherwell are left in the position of a beachcomber who keeps his eyes peeled for overlooked valuables.

Now Eliphas Shivute has washed up on their shore. The young Namibian's family was unable even to afford a pair of boots for him when he was growing up in his homeland, but he was sure-footed enough to score his first goal for the club on Saturday. Shivute's presence testifies to the tireless ingenuity of clubs such as Motherwell.

McLeish would surely prefer to acquire players in the traditional manner, which involves scrawling a string of numbers on a cheque. Nonetheless, his side, even if it is a budget model, has now won and drawn in its past two matches at Ibrox. Adverse circumstances have not reduced Motherwell to fatalism.

Rangers' supporters, of course, will be indignant that the visitors were not reduced to rubble. At present, Walter Smith, the club's manager, finds himself in charge of a bumbling team. Only in the late stages did Paul Gascoigne rouse himself to effectiveness and, even before the injury that rules him out of tomorrow's Uefa Cup tie with Strasbourg, Brian Laudrup had been mediocre.

So friable is the Rangers defence that Strasbourg, 2-1 in front after the first leg, may prove dangerous if they merely establish the whereabouts of Rangers' half of the field. Scotland's other representatives in Europe also have their failings.

Celtic continue to improve, but an extraordinary spurt towards excellence is required if the 2-2 draw from the first leg is to prove the basis for overcoming Liverpool at Anfield in the Uefa Cup. Nice hold a 3-1 advantage over Kilmarnock at Rugby Park in the Cup Winners' Cup.

With Aberdeen losing to Dunfermline Athletic on Saturday, Scotland's prestigious clubs look rather shabby. For the moment, the shining role models are to be found among the poor and the dispossessed.

Keegan takes a back seat

Wigan Athletic 2
Fulham 1

BY PAT GIBSON

THE chief operations officer made an excellent start. The Fulham team coach drew up outside Springfield Park more than an hour before the kick-off and the players were back on board, all present and correct, within 45 minutes of the final whistle.

Presumably, there is more to Kevin Keegan's new job than that, but it was not immediately apparent on Saturday. He dashed off the bus, brushing aside two Fulham supporters who wanted to tell him what they thought about the treatment of the previous manager, Micky Adams, watched the game from the director's box and then dashed back on again. "It is not my job to comment on games, although there will be times when I do," he said after leaving the talking to his team manager, Ray Wilkins, who did it with his usual polished skill.

"Good grief," Wilkins said when he was asked if any new signings were imminent. "I've only been in the job a day. Clearly with Mr Al Fayed backing the club, there is the possibility that funds will be made available, but that is not saying that these lads will not be in the side. They are wearing the shirts at the moment and, please God, they'll hang on to them."

It seems a forlorn hope. If Fulham are going to be competing with teams such as Manchester United and Arsenal within five seasons, which is the grand plan, they are going to have to start winning at places like Wigan.

They rarely looked like doing that, despite taking a fortunate lead in the eighteenth minute, when Hayward stuck out a boot to turn in a Carpenter shot that was going well wide. Wigan equalised eight minutes later through Johnson after Fulham had dealt with a Lee cross as sloppily as Keegan's Newcastle United defence used to do — and they deservedly won the game two minutes from time when Greenall headed in a corner from Martinez.

WIGAN ATHLETIC (4-4-2): L Butler — S Green, P McGibbon, C Greenall, K Sharp (sub: P Rogers, 64min) — D Lee, R Martinez, B O'Connell, G Johnson — G Jones (sub: A Saville, 64), D Lowe.
FULHAM (5-3-2): A Arendse — D Cullip, S Morgan, M Lawrence — R Carpenter, R McAree (sub: N Smith, 60), G Cockerill, S Hayward, R Herrera — M Conroy, P Moody (sub: R Scott, 88).
Referee: R Furnandiz

Duxbury passes on his expertise

BY JOHN GOODBODY

IT IS curious that while many independent schools have traditionally employed former professionals to teach such sports as cricket and rackets, this has not been generally the case in football, the most highly developed and popular game in Great Britain.

There have been exceptions. Perhaps the most celebrated was the late Harry Cripps, who enjoyed a colourfully rumbustious career as a full back in the 1960s and 1970s at Millwall. He played alongside Dennis Burnett, who was also his partner in a building business. Supporters at the Den called them "'Arry and Den, the wallpaper men". Cripps later coached at Winchester College, not the most inevitable career move.

The latest former player to become associated with an independent school is Mike Duxbury, the former Manchester United and England defender. He has followed Paul Mariner, another international, to coach a Bolton school who last Wednesday beat their local rivals, Manchester Grammar, 6-2 in the first round of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup.

The Lancashire school still has ten players from last season, when it was beaten in an enthralling final by Lancing, including Craig Jolley, a defender who attends the Manchester United school of excellence. Bolton will next play Wellingborough, who beat Lancing on penalties in the first round last week and are the early favourites.

Duxbury, who coaches all levels on a part-time basis, said that because of the school's intelligent intake, the boys "understand very quickly what you are trying to get across. The majority of them love playing the sport, although some are not devoted to the game. That is a new experience for me."

Bolton have relished the presence of Mariner and Duxbury. Chris Rigby, the master in charge of football, said: "It is so useful having someone available who is steeped in the game. They echo the messages on playing football that the rest of the staff are trying to put across — and, if there are any wrinkles that need ironing out, they are able to do it."

Ardingly, who have lost two finals in the five years of this flourishing independent schools tournament, had George Robb, the former Tottenham Hotspur and England winger, teaching at the college in the 1950s. Now Graham Dawtrey, the master in charge, is helped by Lee Shepherd, a former professional with Blackpool. Ardingly beat Victoria College, Jersey, making their debut in the cup, 6-0 last week and now meet Westminster, 4-3 winners over Bradfield, in the second round.



UCS, who have yet to enter the competition, play football only in the Lent term and are coached by Tom Youlden, the former Arsenal, Portsmouth and Reading defender, who now teaches economics and politics at the Hampstead school. Last season, they won ten of their 11 games, the only draw being with Westminster.

Stewart Robson, another former Arsenal player, is the master in charge of football at Forest, winners of the competition in the first year but beaten last week 3-2 at Aldenham, who now meet Repton, 3-2 winners over Hampton.

Mark Dickson, the master in charge at Shrewsbury, who won 4-1 at KES Witley and are at home to St Bede's, Manchester, is the organiser of the tournament. He said of the flow of professionals coaching at independent schools: "Now there is no longer the social distinction between football and some of the other traditional public-school sports, this may well be a growing trend."

Cup win cheers The Firs faithful

St Leonard's S 2
Canvey Island 0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

ST LEONARD'S Stamcroft, bottom with one point from nine matches of their first season in the Dr Martens League premier division, gained a morale-boosting victory over Canvey Island, of the Isthmian League, in an FA Cup second qualifying round tie at The Firs on Saturday.

The match was won by second-half goals by Ruddy, controlling a clearance and smacking a fine shot from 25 yards, and Lambert, sent clear after Miles had mesmerised two defenders.

The afternoon was marred by Ndunduma, the Stamcroft forward, being taken to hospital with a broken jaw and the sendings-off in the 75th minute of Horne, angrily, and Phillips, painfully, who clashed as the Canvey goalkeeper made a routine kick out.

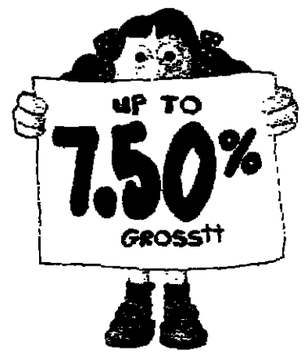
Micky Reed, for 11 years the manager of a club that, five years ago, was in the second division of the Sussex County League, said: "Let's hope this is the turning point." Reed has taken encouragement from the arrival of Mike Trusson as coach, the form of experienced recent acquisitions, Tony Lange and George Parris, and the imminent return from injury of Jon Magee, the club's leading striker.

Learning to accept the hard times — Reed had never experienced three successive defeats until this season — is part of a challenge taken up with equal determination by Leon Shepperdson, the chairman. "The promotion almost certainly came too early," he said, "but it's a chance we had to take. We might never have been in the same position again." He believes that the town as a whole will benefit from a rivalry with neighbouring Hastings Town, one that drew 1,579 spectators when they met last month.

ST LEONARD'S STAMCROFT (3-5-2): A Lange — A Burt, M Jones, S Gatting — N Philips, P Ruddy, G Parris, C Willard, C Stonham (sub: J Lambert, 78min) — D Ndunduma (sub: W Farmer, 36), K Miles.
CANVEY ISLAND (4-4-2): B Horne — D Roser, L Morrish, A Sussex, C Blakebrough — M Marsh, P Donovan (sub: W Joscelyne, 61), K Lee, A Harding — A Brett, C Thompson
Referee: G Hoare.



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TENNIS

Rusedski sets up trade in coaches

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

GREG RUSEDSKI'S stubborn resistance against Pete Sampras in the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup here on Saturday was overshadowed by an important change to the player's personal arrangements. It later emerged that Rusedski had severed links with his coach, Brian Teacher, and replaced him with Tony Pickard, the Briton who guided Stefan Edberg through most of his career.

Details of Rusedski's decision to shed Teacher, 42, came as a big surprise. Since its forging in May last year, the alliance has enabled Rusedski, ranked No 84 12 months ago, to break into the world top ten. Rusedski paid tribute to Teacher's significant contribution after each of the victories that propelled him towards the final of the US Open four weeks ago.

The laconic Teacher, from California, was considered the perfect foil to Rusedski's excitable nature. However, Rusedski insisted that his arrangement with Teacher had simply run its course. "Brian and I finished working together at the US Open," he said. "We had an agreement to work until September." Rusedski and Pickard had been in daily contact during the player's march through the Grand Slam Cup, which ended when Sampras bettered Rusedski 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-2.

"Tony has been doing all my strategy and helping me — in particular in the match against [Yevgeni] Kafelnikov," Rusedski said. "He has proved by taking Stefan Edberg to the top that he is one of the best coaches in the world."

Pickard, a former Great Britain Davis Cup captain, admitted that he was surprised by the initial approach from Rusedski's agents two weeks ago. "I then had a meeting, just with Greg, helping me to get a picture about where things were," he said. "It didn't make sense to me in a way. Then he explained the reasons why [he was splitting with Teacher]."

Although Pickard would not elaborate, sources suggested that dispensing with Teacher was prompted by Rusedski's father, Tom. He has been pivotal in Rusedski employing a battery of coaches in his career to date. The split also comes at an important stage in the season for Rusedski, who has his sights fixed firmly on the ATP world championship at Hannover in November. Ranked No 9 in the world, Rusedski must advance by one place to secure his place in the eight-man field.

Predictably, Pickard, 63, had no doubts on that score. "There is no reason why he cannot get into the top five," he ventured, "and if he does that, anything can happen." While Rusedski yesterday journeyed to a tournament in Basle, Pickard will not link up with his new charge until Vienna next week.

Pickard felt that Rusedski, who served majestically for half the match, ultimately failed to implement the strategy he devised for defeating Sampras. "For three sets, I don't think two guys could have served better. At that stage of the match, Greg was doing what we talked about by attacking the Sampras service, but later he held off."

Nevertheless, Rusedski confirmed his recent improvement here, prompting Sampras to declare him a "top-five" player on fast courts. "For the first two sets, I was absolutely overwhelmed with his power and placement on his service," Sampras said.

The difference between them was that Rusedski could not maintain those high standards throughout the match. After winning the opening set with the only break points he was to conjure, Rusedski played a poor second-set tiebreak and Sampras never looked back.



Rusedski: surprise

Precision of Sampras brings down Rafter

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT

IN KEEPING with the atmosphere surrounding this money-laden event, the Compaq Grand Slam Cup final at the Olympiahalle in Munich yesterday proved to be a disappointing occasion as Pete Sampras, the world No 1, swept aside an exhausted Patrick Rafter to swell his earnings by $2 million (about £1.2 million).

This imposing indoor complex may have been baptised by Olga Korbut's brilliance at the 1972 Olympic Games, but rows of empty seats suggested that Munich's love affair with this tournament is turning sour. The stadium was barely two-thirds full as Sampras, who served notice of his intentions by breaking Rafter in the opening game, showed just why he remains the sport's most-prized scalp. Although Rafter was visibly drained by a 4hr 18min semi-final defeat of Petr Korda the previous day, Sampras's dominance brooked no argument.

It took Rafter a full 34 minutes to earn his first point against the Sampras service — and that came courtesy of a double fault. Indeed, Sampras only conceded a further seven points on his service, its metronomic accuracy deflating Rafter beyond recall. How appropriate that Sampras's financial windfall should be gained at an event sponsored by makers of computers, whose flawless precision his game so resembles. He prevailed 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 after 95 minutes to become the only dual winner in the tournament's seven-year history.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Farrell's class puts Wigan in command

St Helens 20
Wigan Warriors 33

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALL ROUND, it was a good day for the maligned British coaching profession. Eric Hughes, late of St Helens and now at the helm of a Wigan side that emphatically retained the Stones Premiership at Old Trafford yesterday, became the first home-grown coach to win a domestic competition since John Joyner with Castleford in the 1994 Regal Trophy.

With Malcolm Reilly leading Newcastle Knights to victory in the Australian Rugby League grand final, Australian coaches suffered at English hands. Not that Shaun McRae, Hughes's successor at St Helens, could have done much to combat Andy Farrell and Jason Robinson, the twin pillars of Wigan's fifth Premiership success in six finals.

The five-four try count in no way reflected Wigan's dominance. When Anderson Hammond exploited gaps at the finish, Wigan were out of sight. McVey and Newlove scored excellent tries in the first half, but at no time did St Helens look like disturbing Wigan's attacking rhythms.

All season, Farrell has led by example and inspired Wigan even in difficult times. As impressive as his try, and involvement in Wigan's four others, were his six goals from nine attempts and 20 back-breaking tackles. Robinson was the only other contender for man-of-the-match as Farrell collected the Harry Sunderland Award for the second successive year.

Wigan peaked too late for the championship, but by maintaining a 13-year record of winning a trophy of some sort, they are in the mood for their quarter-final against Hunter Mariners in the world club championship at Central Park on Friday.

The ease with which Farrell sent through a slide-rule kick for Johnson to score after four minutes set the tone. Despite injuries to Connolly and Smith, Wigan attacked wide, from deep and with precision. Farrell's boot played a part in the next try by Robinson, as Arnold and Joynt groped at the bouncing ball.

Farrell inflicted maximum damage down St Helens's vulnerable right flank in the second half, first cueing up Radlinski, then starting and finishing an eight-man passing move, before helping Radlinski to send over Haughton.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: McVey, Newlove, Anderson, Hammond Goals: Long (2)
Wigan Warriors: Tries: Johnson, Robinson, Radlinski, Farrell, Haughton. Goals: Farrell (6). Dropped Goal: Wright.
ST HELENS: D Arnold, A Stewart, A Hunte, P Newlove, A Sullivan; K Hammond, S Long, A Leatham, K Cunningham, J O'Neill; A Perelini, D McVey, C Joynt. Substitutes: S Booth, C Morley, P Anderson, I Pickavance.
WIGAN WARRIORS: J Robinson; D Ellison, G Connolly, K Radlinski, A Johnson; H Paul, A Smith; N Cowie, J Clarke, L Hansen, S Haughton, M Cassidy. A Farrell. Substitutes: N Wright, S Holgate, T O'Connor, G Tallec
Referee: S Cummings (Widnes)



LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT

McVey, of St Helens, barges past Paul, of Wigan

Huddersfield end their long wait

Huddersfield Giants 18
Hull Sharks 0

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HUDDERSFIELD achieved their first cup final victory in 40 years yesterday when they won the Divisional Premiership with a rousing performance against the Hull, the first division champions.

Weston and Davys were the matchwinners, controlling the game at half back and opening Huddersfield's account after 38 minutes, when Weston's kick rebounded off the post straight to Davys.

Slick passing by Weston and Veivers sent Bunyan over shortly after the restart and Hull were left to chase a lost cause. With Huddersfield defending resolutely, Cook landed three goals and Cheetham darted over for the final try.

SCORERS: Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Davys, Bunyan, Cheetham Goals: Cook (3).
HUDDERSFIELD GIANTS: V Viewers; P Cook, J Bunyan, D Honger, A Cheetham, C Weston, A Davys; N Harmon, D Russell, N Fazzani, A Bowes. T King, M Sturm Substitutes: S Booth, J Berry, P Dixon, G Richards.
HULL SHARKS: S Holmes; G Hallas, K Gray, T Valkana, M Johnson; R Nolan, M Hewitt; R Wilson, M Dixon, A Ireland, D Boyd, M Schultz. B Hepi Substitutes: R Danby, L Campbell, A Jackson, M David
Referee: J Connolly (Wigan).

CRICKET

England go down as Hollioake suffers

ADAM HOLLIOAKE'S first taste of England captaincy ended in defeat yesterday when he and his team were beaten by Pakistan in the final of the Hong Kong National Sixes (Thrasy Petropoulos writes).

Hollioake had given himself the task of bowling the last over throughout the tournament and he needed to restrict Pakistan to fewer than 22 runs to secure victory. On strike was Zahoor Blahi, making his first appearance in the tournament, but Hollioake's first ball was a leg-side wide and the next four disappeared for three fours and a six before Hollioake's second wide ended the contest.

England had previously swept all before them with imaginative and purposeful cricket. The Kent pair of Matthew Fleming, who was voted man of the tournament, and Mark Ealham stood out as victories were recorded over Hong Kong, Pakistan, Australia and Sri Lanka. Fleming, a late replacement for Darren Gough in the England one-day winter tour party, took a hat-trick in the opening match.

Zimbabwe gave themselves an outside chance of registering their first victory over New Zealand when they accumulated quick runs at the end of the fourth day of the second Test match in Bulawayo.

Having been held up by the New Zealand late middle-order, Harris and Vettori adding 112 runs for the eighth wicket, Zimbabwe reached 152 for three at the close to establish a lead of 210. The first Test in the two-match series was drawn.

In Hyderabad yesterday, Aqib Javed took four wickets in eight balls as India collapsed to 170 all out in the first of three one-day internationals against Pakistan, who cruised to a five-wicket victory. India were well placed at 166 for four before Aqib struck. Pakistan then romped home overs after Saeed Anwar and Shahid Afridi shared an opening partnership of 70 from 78 balls.

Hong Kong details, page 42
Scoreboards, page 42

IN BRIEF

O'Sullivan ready to make mark in Germany

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN began the defence of his German Open snooker title by beating Graeme Dott, of Glasgow, 5-2 in the final qualifying round of the world ranking event at Hereford yesterday (Phil Yates writes). O'Sullivan led 4-0 before Dott recovered to 4-2. Dott lost the seventh frame on the black after leading 68-4.

"It would be special to retain the trophy because that is something I have never done," O'Sullivan, who now travels to the final phase of the tournament at Bingen in December, said.

Kenyan coup

Athletics: Elijah Lagat, of Kenya, won the Berlin Marathon in 2hr 7min 41sec yesterday and more than tripled his prize-money by recording the fastest time of the year. Eric Kimaiyo, Sammy Lelei and Jackson Kipngok, all from Kenya, finished second, third and fourth.

☐ Paula Radcliffe retained her Fifth Avenue Mile road race title in 4min 22.96sec in New York on Saturday.

Novotna in form

Tennis: Jana Novotna, the world No 2, beat Amanda Coetzer, of South Africa, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 to win the Leipzig Open yesterday. Coetzer defeated Martina Hingis, the world No 1, in the semi-final.

Triple record set

Rifle shooting: Jim McAllister broke three long-range records at the Autumn Match meeting at Bisley. Shooting at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards, he put 87 of his 90 shots into the 24-inch bullseye, the first time it has been done in more than 100 years.

Robinson wins

Boxing: Steve Robinson retained his World Boxing Organisation inter-continental featherweight championship by beating Andrew Matabola, of South Africa, in the fifth round at the Ulster Hall in Belfast.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Coca-Cola Cup
Second round, second leg
West Ham (0) v Huddersfield (1) (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference
Kidderminster v Cheltenham . . . . . .
Northwich v Gateshead . . . . . .

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley v Blyth Spartans (7.45) Cup: First round: Ashton United v Flixton.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Tottenham Hotspur (at Lewes FC, 2.0); Southampton v Chelsea (at Staplewood)
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Manchester United v Tranmere (at Bury FC); Stoke v Nottingham Forest (at Newcastle Town FC, 7.0) First division: Wolverhampton v Bolton (7.0)
NATIONWIDE GOLD CUP: Section A: Crusaders v Ballymena. Section B: Bangor v Linfield; Limavady United v Distillery. Section C: Glentoran v Cliftonville; Ormagh v Portadown (7.45)
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Keynsham v Chippenham
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe v Kidsgrove

OTHER SPORT

SQUESTRIANISM: Horse of the Year Show (at Wembley)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Poole v Ipswich (7.30). Premier League: Isle of Wight v Hull (7.0); Isle of Wight v Newcastle (9.0).

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v Cambridge City (7.15); Northampton v Loughborough Students (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European Cup: Group E: Belgrade v London Towers.
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Slough Jets v Cardiff Devils (8.0); Nottingham Panthers v Bracknell Bears (7.30); Telford Tigers v Sheffield Steelers (8.0)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: King's Lynn v Eastbourne (7.45); Peterborough v Swindon (7.45). Premier League: Isle of Wight v Long Eaton (at Peterborough, 7.0)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham)

WEDNESDAY

SPEEDWAY: Individual: Chris Prime Memorial Trophy (at Hull, 7.30) Amateur League: Long Eaton and Wolverhampton v Buxton (7.45)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham)

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London Leopards v Sheffield Sharks (7.0)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham)

FRIDAY

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN CUP: Pool B: Ulster v Wasps (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals: Auckland Warriors v Bradford Bulls (9.0am), Wigan Warriors v Hunter Mariners (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Phil Bishop-Lokeren Best Pairs (at Arena Essex, 8.0) Amateur League: Oxford v Buxton (7.30); Peterborough v Exeter and Newport (7.0); Peterborough v Belle Vue (8.30)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham)

SATURDAY

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

HEINEKEN CUP: Pool A: Leicester v Toulouse (2.15); Leinster v Milan. Pool B: Swansea v Glasgow (2.30). Pool C: Pontypridd v Scottish Borders (2.15) Pool D: Bourgoin v Munster; Harlequins v Cardiff. Pool E: Treviso v Llanelli (2.0).
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE: Pool A: Bristol v Agen; Ebbw Vale v La Rochelle (2.0) Pool B: Newport v Salo (6.0) Pool C: London Irish v Ferul Constanta (2.30). Pool D: Connacht v Begles-Bordeaux (2.30). Nec v Northampton (tbs) Pool E: Colomiers v Bridgend (tba). Grenoble v Richmond Pool F: Gloucester v Béziers. Pool H: Neath v Saracens (2.0).
ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: Second division: Bedford v Waterloo; Blackheath v Coventry; Exeter v West Hartlepool; Orrell v Fylde; Rotherham v London Scottish, Wakefield v Moseley
RFU CUP: Second round: Aspatria v Wicanes; Birmingham/Solihull v Otley; Bracknell v Met Police; Broadstreet v Huddersfield; Cheltenham v Sevenoaks; Havant v Matson; Haywards Heath v Launceston, Henley v Camberley; Kendal v Harrogate; Lewes v North Walsham; London Welsh v Clifton, Lydney v Amersham and Chiltern; Morley v Selly Oak; Northern v Tynedale; Nottingham v Doncaster; Preston Grasshoppers v Manchester; Rugby v Vagabonds (toM); Sandal v Nuneaton; Sheffield v Vale of Lune; St Ives v Barking; Staines v Banbury; Stourbridge v Taunton; Tabard v Rosslyn Park; Weston-super-Mare v Newbury; Wharfedale v Wigton; Winchester v Reading; Winnington Park v Liverpool St Helens; Worcester v Leeds
WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Blackwood v Pontypool (2.0); Bonymaen v Aberavon (2.0); Caerphilly v Treorchy (2.0); Cross Keys v Abertillery (2.0), Llandovery v Maesteg (2.0), Merthyr v Cardiff Insl (2.0); Rumney v Newbridge (2.0); South Wales Police v Dunvant (2.0).
SRU LEAGUE TROPHY: Group A: Currie v Hawick; Edinburgh Acads v Glasgow Hawks; Gala v Melrose; Kirkcaldy v Preston Lodge; Musselburgh v Heriots FP Group B: Boroughmuir v Jed-Forest; Kilmarnock v Kelso; Peebles v Biggar; Stirling County v Dundee HSFP. Watsonians v West of Scotland Group C: Glenrothes v Grangemouth, Stewart's Mel FP v Gordonians Group D: Ayr v Hillhead/Jordanhill, Glasgow Southern v Stewartry

RUGBY LEAGUE

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final: Brisbane Broncos v St Helens (10.30am)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Newcastle Eagles (7.30); Birmingham Bullets v London Towers (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Watford Royals (8.0); Worthing Boars v Derby Storm (8.0).
BOXING: World Boxing Council heavyweight championship: L Lewis (GB, holder) v A Golota (Pol) (at Atlantic City). World Boxing Organisation light-heavyweight championship: D Michalczewski (Ger, holder) v N Piper (Cardiff); World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight championship: R Rocchigiani (Ger, holder) v C Thompson (Manchester) (at Hanover) World Boxing Organisation light-welterweight championship: G Parisi (It, holder) v N Worton (Liverpool) (at Rome). European lightweight championship: C Ashley (Leeds, holder) v O Klemetsen (Nor); European super-bantamweight championship: S Oliver (Barnet, holder) v Hrivchka Hidrian (Russ) (at Alexandra Palace, London)
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: quarter-finals, first legs
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Berwick v Oxford (6.30). Amateur League: Berwick v Oxford (8.0).
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham)

SUNDAY

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN CUP: Pool C: Bath v Bath (1.20) Pool E: Caledonia v Pau (at McDiarmid Park, 3.0).
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE: Pool G: Newcastle v Edinburgh (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final: London Broncos v Cronulla Sharks (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Great South Run (Portsmouth)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Thames Valley Tigers (5.30); Manchester Giants v Leicester Riders (6.30); Sheffield Sharks v Worthing Boars (6.0).
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Quarter-finals, second leg.
SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Newport v Arena Essex (2.30). Open (at Glasgow, 6.30). (at Newcastle, 6.30) Amateur League: Buxton v Ipswich and King's Lynn (3.0)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Nottingham).

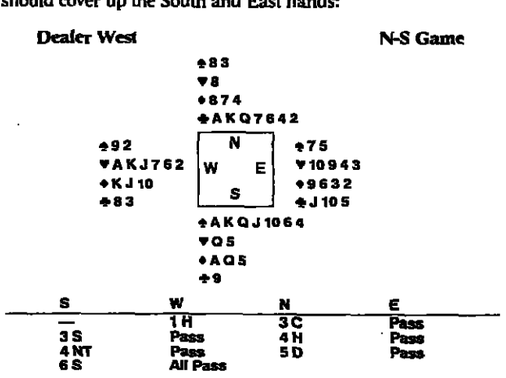
This week's football, page 38

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The *1998 Daily Bridge Calendar* has a hand for each day of the year, contributed by various well-known experts. This hand is by Ron Klinger, a leading Australian writer. You are West and should cover up the South and East hands:

Dealer West — N-S Game



S	W	N	E
—	1 H	3 C	Pass
3 S	Pass	4 H	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 D	Pass
6 S	All Pass		

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: ace of hearts

North's Three Clubs was weak but at this vulnerability the expectancy was about seven tricks. South's Three Spades was forcing and North's Four Hearts showed a control along with some support for spades. This was enough for South to use Blackwood (over-ambitious I think) before settling in the small slam.

As West you lead the ace of hearts. What next? As South used Blackwood your partner cannot have an ace. And since South knows there is an ace missing he will not have a trump loser. If declarer can make full use of dummy's clubs he must make his slam. The best chance is to find declarer with a singleton club, when a club switch now will mean he is cut off from his winners in the suit.

On the actual layout, a club switch is the only one to beat the contract. Declarer can discard one diamond on the king of clubs, but if he tries a third club you will ruff, while if he takes the diamond finesse you will make your king.

The calendar is good value for money. You can get it for £15.50, post free from Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Bisley, Surrey, GU21 2TH. Credit card hotline 01483 489961.

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge 1*, a compendium of some of these columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Deep Blue retires

IBM have announced, in the wake of the narrow victory by their machine against Garry Kasparov in May of this year, that Deep Blue is to retire from chess. This announcement was greeted by an angry tirade from Kasparov, who said in Moscow: "I am very disappointed at IBM's statement. From the beginning, I believed in this concept as a scientific experiment coupled with a way of bringing chess into almost every home in the world. I am amazed to read that they wish 'to quit while they are ahead'.

"We stand at one match all and there is enormous worldwide enthusiasm for a tie-breaking third match. IBM could continue this great experiment and at the same time they could address the many questions left unanswered since New York. In this regard, IBM's Dr Tan promised to publish the computer's details for the scientific world. I trust this will happen because 300 million chess players worldwide await the answers. This action has the appearance of investors cashing in their chips on the stock market — take your profits and run. It puts a lie to the scientific experiment and good of mankind theory they have espoused. It is not too late to announce a sporting match under great conditions, which would be a public relations coup for IBM."

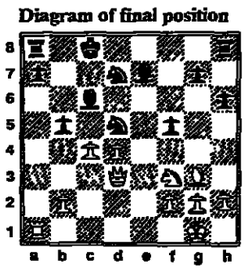
Here is the game which allowed Deep Blue to win the match against Kasparov by 3½-2½.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Garry Kasparov
New York 1997

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Ng5	Ngf6
6	Bd3	e6
7	N1f3	h6
8	Nxe6	Qe7
9	0-0	fxe6
10	Bg6+	Kd8
11	Bf4	b5
12	a4	Bb7
13	Re1	Nd5
14	Bg3	Kc8
15	axb5	cxb5
16	Qd3	Bc6
17	Bf5	exf5
18	Rxe7	Bxe7
19	c4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Tilburg

After the first round at the Tilburg tournament in Holland, the favourites, Garry Kasparov, Vladimir Kramnik and Michael Adams, of Great Britain, are jointly in the lead.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JACOBIAN
a. A mathematical device
b. A Panzer general in the Wehrmacht
c. A political rebel

SNIFTING VALVE
a. A dispenser of aperitifs
b. A locomotive boiler fitting
c. Wavelength adjustment

ANADEM
a. A silent protest march
b. A sedative suppository
c. A garland

PALL RINGS
a. A party telephone game
b. A distillers' device
c. Phenomenon in wheat fields

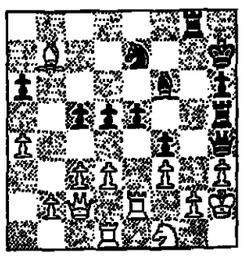
Answers on page 54

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Hersvig — Pilaj, Tallinn 1997.

Black has built up a strong concentration of force on the kingside. How did he now make the most of this?



Solution on page 54

THE TIMES
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RACING: DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE CELEBRATES EMOTIONAL SUCCESS IN ROYAL LODGE STAKES

Teapot Row fuels classic dreams

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

MARTYN HAYHOW



Glorosia provides the middle leg of a 41-1 treble for Dettori by staying on strongly to capture the group one Fillies' Mile at Ascot yesterday

THE Duke of Devonshire, at the age of 77, has experienced most of life's highs and lows, but he could not prevent a tear of joy after Teapot Row won the Gtech Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot yesterday — and threw the betting on next year's Derby into confusion.

"You cry when you win, not when you lose," he said from underneath a trilby only slightly more crumpled than his face. "It is simply marvellous, so thrilling. We only had hopes; we were not expecting too much.

"This takes me back to Park Top [winner of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes in 1969]. It is something to dream about during the winter, because racing is about dreams."

Teapot Row, who cost 75,000 guineas as a yearling, is named after a row of cottages opposite the estate office at Chatsworth. "The bunting will be out tonight," the Duke said.

With Kilimanjaro, the 9-4 favourite, never travelling well at any stage of the race, Muhtathir led the field into the straight but was soon swamped for speed by the chasing pack. Despite drifting towards the stands, Teapot Row produced the better turn of foot under Seb Sanders and had threequarters of a length to spare over Prolix, with City Honours back in third.

The Duke, who also has another classic prospect in Duck Row, can hardly believe his belated good fortune. "I'm 77 and the strain is getting to me. I am more at home at Windsor than Ascot. I can't see so well now so I just held on to James [Toller] and my daughter. I will have to pinch myself all the way home."

If the Duke is finding it difficult to come to terms with having a brace of top two-year-olds, imagine the thoughts racing through the mind of James Toller, trainer of the two Rows, who has just 24 horses in his yard at Whitsbury — seven of them belonging to the Duke.

Asked whether Teapot Row would be aimed at the 2,000 Guineas, for which he is a best-priced 20-1 with Coral, or the Derby, where similar odds are available, Toller was slightly nonplussed. "Having never had anything approaching these two, I am the last person to ask," he said, only slightly in jest. "He would not be a 20-1 shot if my name was Henry Cecil."

Toller's fortunes have been transformed since he moved from Newmarket to his present base three years ago but he is the first person to acknowledge the support he has received from the Duke, who has had horses with him for most of his training career. "Today's victory could not happen to a better man. I would be struggling without him."

The defeat of Kilimanjaro, who almost certainly needs easier ground or a stiffer test of stamina, prompted a sharp reshuffle of the ante-post odds for the Derby. While Ladbrokes and William Hill had no hesitation in elevating the Aidan O'Brien-trained Second Empire to 10-1 and 12-1 respectively, somewhat surprisingly, Coral went 16-1 (along with King Of Kings) and that looks over-priced.

Trying to concentrate on racing yesterday as the Ryder Cup unfolded was difficult for spectators, jockey and trainers. Luca Cumani, one of the most quick witted of the training fraternity, seized on the events happening in Spain after Frankie Dettori had partnered Glorosia to a surprise 10-1 victory in the Fillies' Mile. "A good day for Wop land," Cumani said in his inimitable style. "Rocca, Frankie and Cumani."

The cheaply bought Bering filly finished only third behind Midnight Line in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster last time, but Cumani explained: "After she won her maiden at Newmarket she went a bit flat so I had to leave her alone. The Doncaster race was almost like her first run and she probably needed the race. She had improved a lot, worked well last week and was in top form today. She looks more like an Oaks filly and is bred to stay a mile and a half."

The group one victory was the middle leg of a 41-1 treble for Dettori, completed by another Cumani filly, Puce, in the Harvest Stakes, and the effervescent former champion jockey has been approached to ride Arabian Story, owned by the Queen, in the Melbourne Cup, Australia's most famous race, in November.

BATH

THUNDERER

2.00 Treasure Chest
2.30 CITY HALL (nap)
3.00 Taalluf
3.30 Latalomne
4.00 Brigand
4.30 Sharp Deed

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 CORNICHE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 CITY HALL (nap). 3.30 Latalomne. 4.00 Brigand.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) D-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,6,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 EBF DODDINGTON MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,292: 1m 2f 46yd) (4 runners)

1 (3) 2 CORNICHE 9 (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-0 ..... T Quinn 96
2 (4) 30065 O' HIGGINS 48 (T Wells) R Boss 9-0 ..... M Roberts 95
3 (1) ST HELENSFIELD (P Deal) M Johnston 9-0 ..... J Weaver –
4 (2) 65 TREASURE CHEST 16 (Lord Weinstock) W Hern 9-0 ..... T Sprake 104

BETTING: 4-7 Cornicha, 3-1 St Helensfield, 9-2 Treasure Chest, 33-1 O' Higgins.

1996: ELDORADO 9-0 J Reid (11-2) M Johnston 6 ran

FORM FOCUS: Cornicha ½l 2nd to Equity Princess in 1m Ayr maiden (good to soft). O' Higgins 5¼l 5th to Deki in 7½l Beverley handicap (good to soft). St Helensfield, Knx colt, half-brother to the top-class Stowaway. Treasure Chest 8¼l 9th to Wales in 1m Goodwood maiden (good).

TREASURE CHEST looks as though this trip will suit and can get off the mark

2.30 WEATHERBYS DATA SERVICES HANDICAP
(£3,534: 2m 1f 34yd) (7 runners)

1 (6) 3061 HEIGHT OF HEIGHTS 58 (F) (Mrs D Haynes) Lady Herries 4-10-0 .. L Dettori 80
2 (1) 5150 ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE 30 (F) (Isca Bloodstock) M Pipe 5-9-12 .. M Roberts 69
3 (5) 16/000- TORCH VERT 17J (B,F,S) (P Green) M Pipe 5-9-10 ..... R Hills –
4 (7) 1-00205 PROSPERO 10 (BF,S) (Mrs G Scriven) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-6 ..... A Clark 68
5 (2) 1112540 RAMIKE 58 (F,S) (Miss B Lee) M Johnston 3-9-0 ..... J Weaver 80
6 (3) 05-0233 CITY HALL 11 (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 3-8-12 ..... T Quinn 76
7 (4) /035621 BRIDIE'S PRIDE 86 (S) (K White) G Ham 6-8-4 ..... J Fowle (7) 74

BETTING: 5-2 City Hall, 7-2 Height Of Heights, 5-1 Prospero, Bridie's Pride, 6-1 Ramike, 8-1 Ultimate Smoothie, 16-1 Torch Vert.

1996: NIZIU 3-9-3 M Hills (7-1) B Hills 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Height Of Heights beat Durham neck in 1¾m Salisbury handicap (good to firm). Ultimate Smoothie 15l 9th to Shooting Light in 1¾m Sandown handicap (soft). Torch Vert 56l 16th to Sweetness Herself in 2m½l Doncaster handicap (soft). Prospero 9l 5th to Montecristo in 1½m Newbury ladies handicap (soft). Ramike 15l last of 14 to Liffre in 1¾m Goodwood handicap (good to firm). City Hall 1½l 3rd to Motel in 2¼m Yarmouth handicap (good to firm). Bridie's Pride beat Contarile 3¼l in 2¼m Chepstow maiden handicap (good to soft)

CITY HALL can put his stamina to good use on this testing track

3.00 EBF SHEILAH HERN MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,428: 5f 161yd) (4 runners)

1 (2) 0 SON OF GOOD TIMES 18 (Queens-Crown Partnership) P Murphy 9-0 S Drowne –
2 (1) 53520 ALPHA WHISKY 14 (J Smith) I Balding 8-9 ..... L Dettori 87
3 (4) 50 LADY CHARLOTTE 8 (Lucayan Stud) D Elsworth 8-9 ..... T Sprake 80
4 (3) 32 TAALLUF 72 (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 8-9 ..... R Hills 100

BETTING: 4-7 Taalluf, 9-4 Alpha Whisky, 7-1 Lady Charlotte, 33-1 Son Of Good Times.

1996: SABINA 8-9 L Dettori (7-4 fav) I Balding 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Son Of Good Times 27l 13th to Smart Squall in 7f Chepstow maiden (good). Alpha Whisky 3½l 7th to Golden Fortune in 6f Nottingham fillies handicap (good to firm). Lady Charlotte 7½l 7th to Refined in 5f Kempton maiden (good). Taalluf neck 2nd to Dazilyn Lady in 6f Nottingham maiden (good to firm).

TAALLUF has much the best form and is hard to oppose

3.30 MORRIS DANCER CONDITIONS STAKES
(£4,503: 1m 5yd) (4 runners)

1 (4) 3-0310 RIGHT WING 75 (D,S) (Earl Cadogan) W Hern 3-9-0 ..... T Sprake 110
2 (3) 152 LATALOMNE 17 (D,F) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-12 ..... T Quinn 109
3 (2) 1-30332 CRIMSON TIDE 10 (BF,S) (C Wright) J Hills 3-8-10 ..... M Hills 108
4 (1) 2321161 JORROCKS 10 (F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 3-8-10 ..... L Dettori 102

BETTING: 11-8 Crimson Tide, 7-4 Latalomne, 9-2 Jorrocks, 7-1 Right Wing.

1996: ALI-ROYAL 3-9-4 Pat Eddery (11-10 fav) H Cecil 6 ran

FORM FOCUS: Right Wing 4¾l 7th to Hawksley Hill in 1m Sandown handicap (good). Latalomne 3½l 2nd to Kahal in 7f Goodwood stakes (good). Crimson Tide 9l 2nd to Clan Ben in 1¼m Newbury stakes (good to soft). Jorrocks beat Marjaana 2l in 7f Newbury handicap (good).

CRIMSON TIDE has not always looked the heartiest battler, but should be good enough

4.00 DICK HERN MAIDEN STAKES (£3,488: 1m 5yd) (4 runners)

1 (3) 22 BRIGAND 10 (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 3-9-0 ..... L Dettori 100
2 (2) 248-060 FARINGDON FUTURE 13 (R Bonnycastle) B Hills 3-9-0 ..... M Hills 83
3 (1) 00/ OH DEARIE ME 741 (The Cross Racing Club) J O'Shea 5-8-13 ..... M Fenton –
4 (4) 0-4 FINARTS BAY 8 (Mrs F Veasey) Mrs J Cecil 3-8-9 ..... J Weaver 72

BETTING: 1-2 Brigand, 7-2 Finarts Bay, 9-2 Faringdon Future, 50-1 Oh Dearie Me

1996: PASTERNAK 3-8-12 S Sanders (9-2) M Prescott 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Brigand 1l 2nd to Ghaith in 1m Newbury maiden (soft). Faringdon Future 9½l 10th to Alsajany in 1m Sandown handicap (good). Oh Dearie Me 55l last to Far Ahead in 1m Nottingham maiden (good to soft). Finarts Bay 8¼l 4th to Musharak in 3yo maiden stakes at Kempton (7f, good)

BRIGAND has easy opportunity to open account

4.30 ALDIE APPRENTICES MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,719: 1m 5yd) (18 runners)

1 (10) 0-05240 SHARP DEED 48 (V,BF) (P Hamman) P Makin 3-9-11 ..... G Hannon (5) 72
2 (9) 0523046 SWAN ISLAND 18 (K Baron) W M Brisbourne 3-9-9 ..... A McCarthy (3) 55
3 (7) 0050030 ATTARIKH 11 (A Morley) Mrs A King 4-9-3 ..... A Eddery 71
4 (2) 9333500 ROCKAROUNDTHECLOCK 24 (A Wright) T Watson 3-9-3 ..... R Studholme (3) 59
5 (11) 6560000 SAXON BAY 21 (B) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-2 ..... D Denby 68
6 (15) 5-0000 MISELLINA 87 (B & E Bloodstock Ltd) R Akehurst 3-9-1 ..... P Fitzsimons (5) 47
7 (18) 60-6600 HANNALOU 48 (V) (T Murray) T Mills 4-9-0 ..... Lisa Hackett (7) –
8 (6) -5000032 THE GREEN GREY 33 (Mrs B Martin) W Muir 3-8-12 ..... Jo Hannam 56
9 (12) 0040000 JUBILEE SCHOLAR 5 (B) (M Johnston) G L Moore 4-8-12 ..... D Williams (5) 65
10 (14) 006-040 D J CAT 9 (BF) (J O'Malley) W Muir 4-8-10 ..... J Wilkinson 68
11 (16) 00-0 HOTSTEPPER 35 (Mrs K Dseman) Mrs S Williams 4-8-10 ..... C Carver (5) –
12 (11) -020600 BACKHANDER 3 (B) (L Metcalf) R Phillips 5-8-10 ..... A Nicholls (5) 76
13 (8) 0004352 RON'S ROUND 7 (Formfit) C Dwyer 3-8-8 ..... J Goldstein (5) 68
14 (17) 4-42400 ILANDRA 161 (Chelgate Public Relations Ltd) G L Moore 5-8-8 ..... P Doe 68
15 (4) 000 BLUE CALYPSO 94 (C Hill) C Hill 3-8-7 ..... R Cody-Boutcher (5) –
16 (6) 000-000 TREVOR MITCHELL 5 (Miss J Self) J Bridger 3-8-7 ..... R Brisland (5) –
17 (3) 00033000 ONE IN THE EYE 25 (T Anthony) J Poulton 4-8-5 ..... J Fanning (5) 72
18 (13) 60-0F SPIRIT OF SPORT 87 (T Warner) A Newcombe 4-8-4 ..... D McGaffin (3) 51

BETTING: 5-1 Ron's Round, 6-1 D J Cat, 8-1 Sharp Deed, The Green Grey, 10-1 Hannalou, Jubilee Scholar, Ilandra, 12-1 others.

1996: SHOULDBEGREY 3-8-10 Amanda Sanders (13-2) W Muir 17 ran

FORM FOCUS: Swan Island 34l last to Mybotye in 7f Chepstow handicap (good). Attarikh 13l 14th to Shark in 1m Yarmouth maiden (good to firm) Rockaroundtheclock 17l 19th to King Uno in 6f Haydock selling handicap (good to soft). Saxon Bay 9½l 11th to Palacegate Jack in 5f Southwell claimer (AW) Miselline 22l 12th to Come Together in 1m 214l Warwick maiden handicap (soft). The Green Grey 8l 2nd to La Doyenne in 7f Brighton maiden auction stakes (good). Jubilee Scholar 11l 12th to Mac Gales in 1m Goodwood claiming handicap (good to firm) with Trevor Mitchell (levels) 18l 18th. D J Cat 25l 11th to Gablesea in 1m¼l Wolverhampton maiden handicap (AW). Hotstepper 21l 8th to Flint Knapper in 1m Warwick maiden stakes (good to soft). Backhander 8½l last to Zurs in 7f Follaisdone apprentice handicap (firm) Ron's Round neck 2nd to Rare Talent in 1¼m Leicester seller (good to firm) Ilandra 18l 12th to Sadey Ana in 1m Brighton handicap (firm). Blue Calypso 11l 7th to Pozzolo in 5f Wolverhampton maiden auction stakes (AW) One In The Eye 7¼l 8th to Roman Rest in 1¼m Brighton amateur handicap (good to firm).

RON'S ROUND can go one better after useful Leicester effort

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Stoute	9	28	32.1	L Dettori	16	78	20.5
I Balding	18	88	20.5	J Weaver	3	19	15.8
D Elsworth	9	44	20.5	R Hills	7	47	14.9
J Hills	12	64	18.8	M Hills	8	55	14.5
W Hern	7	41	17.1	T Quinn	20	148	13.5
P Cole	16	98	16.3	Only qualifiers			

Bahhare heads chasing pack for Champion

BAHHARE, fourth behind Air Express in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on Saturday, may reappear in the Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket in three weeks' time.

Angus Gold, racing manager to the colt's owner, Hamdan al-Maktoum, said: "Bahhare ran well at Ascot. He kept on well after not getting a good break, and will probably be aimed at the Champion Stakes. Bahri [Bahhare's half-brother] failed to stay in the Champion Stakes two years ago, but Bahhare looks more like a mile-and-a-quarter horse."

Bahhare — favourite throughout last winter for the 2,000 Guineas — was having only his second run of the season after a belated reappearance at Doncaster earlier this month.

The son of Woodman had been off the course for a year having suffered a stress fracture to his pelvis in his build-up to the first classic.

Bijou D'Inde, who finished fifth, a neck behing Bahhare, on Saturday, and seventh-placed Entrepreneur are also likely to line up in the Champion Stakes.

Bijou D'Inde had disappointed last time out in the Prix du Moulin — his first run since injuring a tendon in the Dubai World Cup in April — but ran with credit at Ascot. "I was very happy with him. He took it up and battled back when headed," his trainer, Mark Johnston, said. "He'll probably go for the Champion Stakes."

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Ascot
Going: good to firm

2.00 (7f) 1. MUDEER (L Dettori, 8-13 (av), 2. Pegnitz (M Roberts, 12-1); 3. Casino King (J Reid, 5-1). ALSO RAN 5 Absolutely Special (5th), 20 Ghail (4th), Shergenzar (6th), 100 Mizzog 7 ran. 2l, 3½l, 2½l, 3½l, 3½l 5 ran *Sunoir at Newmarket. Tote* £1.60; £1.30, £3.30 DF £7.50 CSF £8.40.

2.35 (1m) 1. TEAPOT ROW (S Sanders, 9-1); 2. Prolix (M Hills, 11-1); 3. City Honours (J Reid, 7-1). ALSO RAN 9-4 fav Kilimanjaro (4th), 3 Muhtathir, 6 Craigsteel (6th), 8 Almutawakel (5th), 25 Sharp Play 8 ran ¾l, hd, nk, hd, nk, J Toller at Newmarket. Tote: £10.60; £1.70, £2.10. £1.90 DF: £39.50 CSF: £92.78

3.10 (1m) 1. GLORIOSIA (L Dettori, 10-1); 2. Jibe (K Fallon, 2-1 fav); 3. Exclusive (M J Kinane, 5-1). ALSO RAN, 11-4 Midnight Line (5th), 10 Alignment, Hollow Haze (6th), 16 Expect To Shine (4th), 66 Filey Brigg 8 ran. ¾l, 3l, 5l, 2½l, 7l L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote: £11.00; £2.30, £1.40, £1.70 DF: £16.20 CSF: £26.22.

4.25 (1m 4f) 1. RIDAYMA (K Darley, 9-2 fav), 2. Taufan's Melody (J Reid, 20-1), 3. Arctic Owl (N Day, 10-1) ALSO RAN 7 Better Offer (4th), Honourable, Rokeby Bowl, 8 Elbadia, Song Of Freedom (6th), Tauni, 14 Tykeyvor, Wise Conquer (5th), 25 Remadi Sun, 33 Al's Alibi, 66 Arctic Thunder 14 ran. ¾l, ¾l, ¾l, ¾l, 2l, L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote: £5.20; £2.40, £5.00, £3.00 DF: £76.30. Tno: £431.50. CSF: £94.74 Tricast: £932.03 Taufan's Melody finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified and placed second

5.00 (5f) 1. TEDBURROW (K Fallon, 7-1), 2. Crowded Avenue (S Sanders, 8-1), 3. Blessingindisguise (M J Kinane, 4-1 fav) ALSO RAN 9-2 Moon Strike, 6 Superior Premium (6th), 10 Sharp Hat, Twice As Sharp, 14 Hello Mister (5th), Jazampipe, 16 Sylva Paradise, 20 Bearpaw Rose (4th), 11 ran NR: Rudi's Pet, 2l, ¾l, nk, 1l, sh hd, E Alston at Longton. Tote: £10.60; £3.40, £2.30, £1.70 DF: £47.50 Tno: £92.80. CSF: £56.76 Tricast: £238.54

5.35 (1m 4f) 1. PUCE (L Dettori, 11-8 fav, Timekeeper's top rating), 2. Graceful Lass (T Quinn, 10-1); 3. Corelite (M Hills, 10-1) ALSO RAN 7-2 Delfish (4th), 11-2 Atone (6th), 6 Tempting Prospect (5th) 6 ran. ¾l, hd, ¾l, hd, 14l L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote: £2.30, £1.40, £2.60 DF: £13.00 CSF: £14.65 Jackpot: not won (pool of £31,331.48 carried forward to Hamilton today). Placepot: £464.60 Quadpot: £21.10.

Brighton
Going: firm

2.30 (5f 213yd) 1. Cosmic Countess (T Sprake, 11-4); 2. The Boy John (5-2 fav), 3. Territory (6-1) 8 ran 1¼l, nk, M Jarvis. Tote: £4.10, £1.10, £1.50, £1.70 DF: £5.60. CSF: £9.75.

3.05 (6f 209yd) 1. Marran (J Quinn, 5-2 fav); 2. Night Flyer (3-1), 3. Leonic (4-1) 6 ran. Nk, 3l J Dunlop Tote: £2.40; £2.00. £2.00. DF: £4.30 CSF: £9.54

3.40 (7f 214yd) 1, Toujours Riviera (G Bardwell, 15-2); 2, Taet Of Silver (16-1); 3, Homestead (3-1). Enton 5-2 fav, 12 ran. Nk, 3l, J Pearce Tote: £9.80, £3.10, £4.10, £2.50 DF: £58.40. Trio: £102.40. CSF: £120.57. Tricast: £417.69.

4.15 (1m 1f 209yd) 1, Fairmist (C Nutter, 10-1), 2, Tallulah Belle (2-1 fav); 3, Supreme Sound (9-2), 11 ran 1l, 1¼l M Prescott Tote: £11.90; £2.30, £1.50, £2.40 DF: £30.60 Tno: £17.40 CSF: £30.78 Tricast: £103.85

4.50 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, Father Dan (J Wilkinson, 15-8), 2, Bewitching Lady (7-4 fav); 3, Kilow Prestige (25-1) 7 ran Hd, 3½l Miss G Kelleway Tote: £2.70; £1.80, £2.00 DF: £3.20 CSF: £5.04

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: JACMAR
(3.20 Hamilton Park)
Next best: Latalomne
(3.30 Bath)

5.20 (6f 209yd) 1, Lord Olivier (J Quinn, 6-1), 2, Bubbly (7-2), 3, Barchaf (4-1) Impulsif 11-4 fav 12 ran NR Roffey Spinney, 1¼l, ¾l W Jarvis. Tote: £8.00; £3.30, £2.60, £2.90 DF: £26.20. Tno: £30.40. CSF: £27.16

5.50 (5f 59yd) 1, Levelled (Dane O'Neill, 7-4 fav); 2, Listed Account (4-1); 3, Pharaoh's Joy (16-1) 8 ran 1l, nk, M Channon Tote: £2.80, £1.10, £2.00, £3.20 DF: £8.50 CSF: £9.43 Tricast: £86.12

Placepot: £29.80. Quadpot: £9.90.

Nottingham
Going: good

3.00 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, Fighting Times (Dean McKeown, 8-1), 2, Pegasus Bay (2-1 fav), 3, Captain Marmalade (20-1) 14 ran NR Acquaint, Callaloo, Red Phantom, Reedo, 4l, hd C Smith Tote: £11.20; £2.90, £1.60, £3.40 DF: £14.50. Tno: £135.50 CSF: £22.00 Tricast: £308.12

3.35 (1m 54yd) 1, Giveaway (A McGlone, 6-4 fav), 2, Mawsoof (2-1), 3, Canadian Puzzler (7-1) 14 ran NRR Ardleigh Charmer, Sempre Asi Sh hd, 4l H Cecil Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £1.10, £2.20 DF: £2.20 Tno: £8.60 CSF: £4.67.

4.10 (1m 54yd) 1, Karinska (S Carson, 16-1), 2, Bella's Legacy (40-1), 3, May Queen Megan (5-1), Gymcrak Flyer 7-2 fav, 12 ran NR: Rosa Royale, Sharp Move Sh hd, 2l M Chapman Tote: £24.00; £3.40, £14.20, £1.70 DF: £343.20 Tno: £281.30 CSF: £477.81. Tricast: £3,306.49

4.40 (5f 15yd) 1, Stand Tall (Paul Eddery, 8-1); 2, Malka (25-1), 3, Double Bounce (20-1); 4, Rushcutter Bay (14-1). Tiler 100-30 fav 18 ran. NR: For The Present, Pleasure Time Sh hd, sh hd Lady Heiress Tote: £7.50; £2.70, £5.00, £2.90, £4.30 DF: £67.60. Tno: £574.50. CSF: £201.54 Tricast: £3,695.84

5.10 (5l 13yd) 1, Tadeo (Dean McKeown, 5-2 fav), 2, Croftere Ceilidh (6-1); 3, Speed On (100-30) My Melody Parkes 5-2 fav, 5 ran. Nk, nk M Johnston. Tote: £4.10, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £8.50 CSF: £13.56

5.40 (5l 15yd) 1, Swing Sister (S Drowne, 25-1) 2, Premium Princess (6-1); 3, Fundance (16-1). Recognition 9-4 fav. 12 ran. Sh hd, ¾l P Webber Tote: £25.60; £5.00, £2.00, £5.90 DF: £60.00. Tno: not won (pool of £219.53 carried forward to 4.50 at Hamilton today). CSF: £151.26

6.05 (6f 15yd) 1, Praetorian Gold (W O'Connor, 11-8 fav); 2, Jules Jewel (16-1); 3, Grace Browning (5-1). 11 ran Nk, 1¼l, Nk, 1¼l R Hannon Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £3.80, £1.80 DF: £21.70 CSF: £25.24 Tno: £69.20

Placepot: £586.30. Quadpot: £548.30.

Stratford
Going: good, good to firm in places

2.10 (2m 4f chl) 1, Have A Brandy (W Storey, 5-1); 2, Parliamentarian (10-1); 3, Mirella Express (5-2). Thehelldoallahenny 6-4 fav 5 ran 5l, 22l Mrs F O'Brien. Tote: £3.60, £1.40, £4.40 DF: £20.90. CSF: £36.52

2.40 (2m 3f ndle) 1 Chilly Lad (D J Wintwash, 20-1) 2, Woodlands Energy (20-1), 3, Spiral Flyer (12-1). Blue Rosette 7-2 fav 12 ran NR Eskimo Kiss, 5l, 1¼l R Price Tote: £18.20; £5.00, £3.00, £7.00. DF: £91.50. Tno: not won (pool of £207.03 carried forward to 4.50 at Hamilton today) CSF: £306.36 Tricast: £4,481.74

3.15 (5m chl) 1 McGregor The Third (A Dobbin 2-1 fav), 2, Dream Ride (4-1); 3, Glenlot (5-2) 5 ran. 5l, 11l G Richards Tote: £3.20; £1.50, £1.30 DF: £5.50 CSF: £10.02

3.45 (2m 110yd ndle) 1 Mr Monarty (A Maguire 11-4) 2 Easy Listening (5-2) 3 Shifting Moon (7-4 fav) 5 ran NR Zahid, 6l 26l S Bowring Tote: £4.10; £1.50, £1.90. DF: £6.50. CSF: £9.50

4.20 (3m 4l chl) 1, Ashwell Boy (R Dumwoody, 5-1) 2, Hebden Lodge (9-4) 3, Man-sman Sparks (5-1) 3 ran NR Eternal Cry, Relkont Stay Win Me, Toskana 16l, dist P Hobbs Tote: £1.50 DF: £1.50 CSF: £2.52.

4.55 (2m 6l 110yd ndle) 1, Supreme Charm (C O Dwyer, 7-2), 2 Ross Quay (9-1) 3, Old Bombay (Evens fav), 11 ran ¾l, 7l K Bailey Tote: £5.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.20 DF: £28.80 Tno: £7.40 CSF: £30.91

Placepot: £822.60. Quadpot: £4.90.

Catterick Bridge
2.10 1, Jungle Story (2-1 fav) 2 Norah (7-2), 3, The Honorable Lady (8-1) 8 ran

2.40 1, Mrs Malaprop (3-1) 2, Surprised (9-4 fav) 3, Carol Singer (10-1) 14 ran

3.10 1, Kingdom Pearl (9-1), 2, Back Row (9-4), 3 Silver Wharf (6-1 fav) 6 ran

3.45 1, Gaelic Storm (Evens fav) 2, Albert The Bear (6-4); 3, Johnny Stancato (5-1) 5 ran

4.20 1, Passionatti (8-1), 2 Misty Point (2-5 fav) 3, Pardan (10-1) 8 ran

4.50 1, Ranger Sloane (6-1), 2, Hasta La Vista (5-1); 3, Welcome Lu (12-1). Avian Spirit 9-4 fav 11 ran

Market Rasen
2.35 1, Down The Yard (4-1), 2, Silverdale Lad (13-8 fav), 3, Gazanski (7-1) 7 ran

3.05 1, Fortune Hopper (5-1), 3, Misty Cay Gouser 5-2 fav (f) 13 ran

3.40 1, Derring Bridge (11-8), 2, Thirty Below (16-1), 3, Ever Smile (5-4 fav) 4 ran.

4.15 1, Highbeath (7-4 fav), 2, Tighter Budget (3-1); 3, Speaker Weatherill (9-2) 5 ran.

4.45 1, Jamaican Flight (7-4 fav), 2, Cottage Prince (5-1) 3, Leap In The Dark (11-2) 6 ran NR King Of The Horse

5.20 1, Cheryl's Lad (5-4 fav); 2, Rangelaw (13-8), 3 Serious (11-2) 6 ran

5.50 1 Jessica One (Evans fav); 2, Eraweb (16-1), 3, Dark Horse (9-4) 11 ran NR Oh No Rosie.

Worcester
2.25 1, Brownes Hill Lad (7-4), 2, Lively Encounter (7-2) 3, Regal Absence (6-5 fav) 4 ran

2.55 1 Danger Baby (7-4 fav), 2, Oh So Handy (9-1), 3, Keep It Zipped (9-2) 7 ran.

3.30 1 Boots Madden (Evens fav), 2, Danzig Island (11-1); 3, Longcroft (33-1) 10 ran.

4.05 1 Talathath (8-11 fav); 2, Vision Of Freedom (6-1) 3, Percy Braithwaite (15-8) 3 ran. NR Hawker Hunter.

4.35 1, No Light (5-4 fav) 2, Can't Say (33-1); 3, Pharaie (11-2). 9 ran.

5.10 1, Nishamira (1-2 fav), 2, Robert's Toy (3-1) 3, Benz Sable (12-1). 4 ran

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Ciro's Pearl. 2.50 Indian Spark. 3.20 Jacmar. 3.50 Tyrolean Dream. 4.20 Macca Luna. 4.50 Stormless. 5.20 Vanborough Lad.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.20 BILL MCHARG MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(£4,839: 1m 4f 17yd) (17 runners)

101 (1) 0500 HAPPY MINSTRAL 41 (F) M Johnston 3-9-10 D Holland 96
102 (4) 2300 MANFUL 80 (B,C,D,F,S) Miss L Perratt 5-9-7 N Kennedy 83
103 (15) 3400 CIRO'S PEARL 30 (D,F,S) M Tompkins 3-9-3 TE Durcan (5) 93
104 (10) 0605 TOTEM DANCER 58 (BF,S) J Eyre 4-9-2 K Fallon 88
105 (3) -550 SIOUX 8 C Thornton 3-8-9 Dean McKeown 85
106 (5) 5155 SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 11 (D,S) D Barker 6-8-12 K Darley 85
107 (5) 0008 SLASHER JACK 163 (D,F,S) R Fahey 6-8-12 R Winston (7) 88
108 (13) 2314 KATHRYN'S PET 89 (D,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-11 A Culhane 74
109 (8) 3142 CLASSIC BALLET 14 (D,F) R Guest 4-8-10 C Lowther (5) 88
110 (12) 0400 MENTALASANYTHIN 9 (CD,G) D H Jones 8-8-7 S Drowne 86
111 (17) 2203 URGENT REPLY 14 (CD,F) C Dwyer 4-8-2 (bt) Wanda (5) 86
112 (14) /50/ GROG 501J (D,F) B Mactaggart 8-8-2 ..... J Fanning –
113 (2) 5543 EXACTLY 9 (D,F,G) J Eyre 4-8-2 ..... T Williams 74
114 (16) 000/ CANNY CHRONICLE 208J (C,D,G) P Monteith 9-7-10 ..... J Bramhill –
115 (6) 5000 LORD ADVOCATE 9 (B,C,D,G) D Nolan 9-7-10 P Fessey (3) 59
116 (7) 4021 CRANBARY 28 (CD,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-7-10 ..... A Daly (3) 59
117 (11) 360/ PROPHETS PRIDE 634J P Monteith 5-7-10 ..... L Charnock –

4-1 Classic Ballet, 9-2 Kathryn's Pet, 8-1 Summerhill Special, Urgent Reply, Exactly, 10-1 Ciro's Pearl, Mentalasanythin, 12-1 others.

2.50 GERBER LANDA & GEE CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,018: 6l 5yd) (7)

201 (3) 0004 VENTURE CAPITALIST 12 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 8-8-7 Alex Greaves 109
202 (1) 5563 BRAVE EDGE 11 (F,G) R Hannon 6-9-0 Dane O'Neill 99
203 (5) 6-60 SCHARNHORST 9 (D,F,S) A Dicken 5-8-9 ..... A Daly (3) –
204 (4) 3000 ZIGGY'S DANCER 9 (D,F,G) E Alston 6-8-9 ..... J F Egan 103
205 (2) 6260 INDIAN SPARK 19 (D,F,S) W G M Turner 3-8-12 D Sweeney (3) 108
206 (4) 0310 NATURAL KEY 28 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 4-8-9 S Drowne 94
207 (7) -020 OPEN CREDIT 18 (D,G) H Cecil 3-8-7 ..... K Fallon 104

6-4 Open Credit, 3-1 Brave Edge, 4-1 Venture Capitalist, 6-1 Indian Spark, 10-1 Ziggy's Dancer, 25-1 Natural Key, 33-1 Schamhorst.

3.20 HAMILTON PARK 2YO SERIES FINAL NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £8,335: 6l 5yd) (12)

301 (12) 4133 FRIAR TUCK 11 (D,F) Miss L Perratt 9-7 ..... K Darley 95
302 (10) 2214 JACMAR 30 (CD,F,G) Miss L Perratt 9-2 ..... K Fallon 95
303 (4) 6320 ONE SINGER 13 (G) M Johnston 8-11 ..... D Holland 94/7
304 (9) 0645 VICE PRESIDENTIAL 9 (C,S) T Etherington 8-10 A Culhane 102
305 (1) 2443 SHARP CRACKER 54 M Johnston 8-3 ..... J Fanning 101
306 (6) 1424 DEMOLITION JO 5 (V,F) P Evans 8-2 ..... J F Egan 101
307 (7) 1342 PEREGRINE 13 (C,F) R Fahey 7-13 R Winston (7) 107
308 (11) 1122 ELLENBROOK 3 (B,BF,C,D,S,S) J Berry 7-10 P Fessey (3) 104
309 (2) 2202 JUST ANOTHER TIME 3 (BF) J Berry 7-10 .. R Pinnock (3) 101
310 (3) 4033 COSMIC CASE 9 J Goldie 7-10 ..... A Polli (5) 96
311 (8) 4250 BAYLHAM 9 J Goldie 7-10 ..... T Williams 95
312 (5) 5000 MAKAHU DON 21 (B,F) W Kemp 7-10 ..... P Bradley (7) 98

7-2 Friar Tuck, 11-2 Jacmar, 7-1 Demolition Jo, Ellenbrook, 8-1 Pierpoint, Cosmic Case. 10-1 One Sing

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Final: Adelaide 19 11 (125) bt St Kilda 13.16 (94).

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace 70 (Wedel 21, Speight 16, Henry 13) Manchester Giants 69 (Larrick 25, New 18, Churchwell 15); Derby Storm 77 (Rutledge 24, Berry 14, Attewell 13) Chester Jets 69 (Bell 22, Leonard 18, Lloyd 17); Leicester 77 (Havrilla 20, Boone 19, Singleton 15) London Towers 69 (Lewis 18, Brown 17, Robinson 17, Hamilton 17); Birmingham Bullets 69 (Dorsey 20, Kirk 15, Lloyd 15) Newcastle Eagles 67 (Boyd 15, McGee 13, Phelps 12); Watford Royals 87 (Ratliff 25, Burns 24, Noel 16) London Leopards 121 (Burks 37, White 28, Youngblood 15); Thames Valley Tigers 92 (McCord 20, Stevenson 19 Holley 19) Worthing Bears 58 (Swords 23, Faux 14, Cuff 8).

	P	W	L	Pts
London Towers	4	4	0	8
Leopards	5	4	1	8
Birmingham	3	3	0	6
Chester	4	3	1	6
Worthing Bears	5	3	2	6
Sheffield	2	2	0	4
Thames Valley	3	2	1	4
Leicester	5	2	3	4
Derby	3	1	2	2
Manchester	4	1	3	2
Newcastle	5	1	4	2
Watford	4	0	4	0
Crystal Palace	5	0	5	0

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Nottingham 70 Plymouth 78; Oxford 62 Richmond 62. Stevenage 93 Teesside 88; Westminster 100 Mid Sussex 93 Second division: Aston Adantto 77 London 111; Flintshire 65 South Wales 90; Northampton 76 Liverpool 78, Thames Valley 49 Slough 81. Third division: Birmingham 76 Sheffield 59; Reading 60 Portsmouth 58; Southampton 87 Leicester 77, Taunton 71 Stoke 62; Ware 70 Manchester 85. Women: First division: Ipswich 39 Hemel 90; London 52 Nottingham 58 Crystal Palace 49; Sheffield 55 Spelthorne 48. Second division: Doncaster 44 Plymouth 34; Sheffield 43 Spelthorne 51; Solent 56 South Wales 30; Tyne and Wear 91 Wandsworth 57.

BOWLS

GUERNSEY: European championship: Pairs: Sixth round. Scotland (J Lindores and G Adrain) bt England (J Baker and B Morley) 18-17; Wales (A Dainton and D Wilford) bt Holland (J Tromp and W van Ginkel) 25-7, Ireland (D Kane and G McCloy) bt Jersey (S Dingle and C Renouf) 18-10. Spain (C Toleman and T Pilang) bt Guernsey (B Hurlord and B Simon) 18-13. Jersey (C Syvret and D Le Marquand) bt England (M Price and J Bell) 17-11; Spain (P Cole and B Toleman) bt Holland (J Aartsen and W Smit) 35-7; Wales (J Wason and W Thomas) bt Scotland (S and D Gourlay) 18-10; Ireland (M Johnston and N Graham) bt Guernsey (G Pitschou and A Simon) 21-12. Seventh round: Jersey (Syvret and Le Marquand) bt Wales (Wason and Thomas) 17-9; Ireland (Johnston and Graham) bt Holland (Aartsen and Smit) 41-3; Scotland (Gourlay and Gourlay) bt Guernsey (Simon and Pitschou) 22-14, England (Price and Bell) bt Spain (Cole and Toleman) 13-8; Wales (Dainton and Wilkins) bt Jersey (Dingle and Renouf) 18-11; Scotland (Lindores and Adrain) bt Spain (Toleman and Pilang) 20-11; England (Baker and Morley) bt Holland (Tromp and Van Ginkel) 22-11, Ireland (Kane and McCloy) bt Guernsey (Hurford and Simon) 28-16 Final positions: 1, Ireland 26pts; 2, Wales 22; 3, Scotland 18; 4, Jersey 16; 5, England 14, 6, Guernsey 10; 7, Spain 6; 8, Holland 0 Singles: Finals: Men: J Bell (Eng) bt G McCloy (Ire) 21-16. Women: J Wason (Wales) bt M Johnston (Ire) 21-18 Champion of Champions: J Bell (England) bt J Wason (Wales) 21-14.

INTER-COUNTY MATCH: Essex 131 Bedfordshire 112.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INTER-CLUB LEAGUE: Midland section: Cumbernauld 70 Ballcardle 88; Coatbridge 89 Blantyre 73; West of Scotland 92 Whitefriars 88. South East section: East Lothian 103 Bainfield 51; Midlothian 118 Tweedbank 53, Tennotdale 62 Edinburgh 84 West Central section: Dumbarton 77 Glasgow 84, Fintry 55 East Kilbride 98; Lanarkshire 140 Clydebank 55

BOXING

ULSTER HALL, Belfast: World Boxing Organisation Inter-continental featherweight championship: S Robinson (Wales) bt A Matabola (SA) ko 5th. British/Commonwealth heavyweight championships: J Francis (Woolwich) bt G Delaney (West Ham) rsc 6th Light-middleweight: N Sinclair (Belfast) bt T Meikle (Scunthorpe) rsc 5th. Middleweight: D Ryan (Donegal) drew with D Radford (Hensworth). Cruiserweight: C O'Grady (Dublin) bt R Chapman (Belfast) rsc 1st. Flyweight: D Kelly (Belfast) bt C Thomas (Merthyr Tydfil) rsc 1st. Bantamweight: S Green (Doncaster) bt T Waite (Belfast) rsc 3rd

CARACAS: World Boxing Association super-bantamweight championship: A Ceremmo (Ven) bt J Rojas (Ven) pts.

CANOEING

BRAZIL: World slalom championships: C1 (Canadian singles): 1, M Martikan (Slovakia) 267.81pts; 2, L Pollert (Cz) 270.89; 3, G Marriott (GB) 271.36; 4, D Heresej (Cro) 273.80; 5, D Hearn (US) 274.07. K1 (Kayak individual women): 1, B Giubal (Fr) 288.07; 2, S Hilgentova (Cz) 289.78; 3, C Hearn (US) 290.38; 4, I Pavelkova (Cz) 293.40; 5, E Huss (Ger) 298.91

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Twenty-first stage (time-trial, Alcobendas, 43.7km): 1, A Zulle (Switz, ONCE) 51min 35sec; 2, S Gontchar (Ukr, AKI) at 31sec; 3, A Leanizbarrutia (Sp, ONCE) 40; 4, L Jalabert (Fr, ONCE) 51; 5, M Mauri (Sp, ONCE) 56; 6, T Rominger (Switz, Cofidis), 1min 26sec; 7, JC Dominguez (Sp, Kelme) 1:30; 8, C Salvato (It, Relin) 2:13; 9, E Zaina (It, Asics) 2.19, 10, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme) 2:21 Twenty-second stage (around Madrid, 154km): 1, M van Heeswijk (Holl, Rabobank) 3hr 29mn 42sec, 2, J Svorada (Cz, Mapei), 3, M Wust (Ger, Lotus); 4, C Camin (It, Bresciolat); 5, L Michaelsen (Den, TVM); 6, F Guidi (It, Scrigno); 7, A Vierhouten (Holl, Rabobank); 8, A di Basco (It, Saeco), 9, B Conte (It, Scrigno), 10, G Gorini (It, AKI) all same time. Leading final overall positions: 1, Zulle 91hr 15min 55sec; 2, Escartin at 5min 07sec; 3, L Dufaux (Switz, Lotus) 6:11; 4, Zaina 7:24; 5, R Heras (Sp, Kelme) 8:04.

MANCHESTER: World Masters track championships: Men: Points: 40-44: 1, G Winkle (US) 25pts; 2, K Jubber (SA) 24; 3, R Braddock (GB) 13 45-49: 1, B Stinton (US) 41pts; 2, W Cox (US) 29; 3, C Dawson (US) 17pts. 50-54: 1, G Weigl (Ger) 18pts; 2, J Jensen (Den) 14; 3, P Jenn (GB) 10. 55-59: 1, M Nepp (Ger) 30pts; 2, R Crayford (GB) 13; 3, C Walmsley (GB) 12. 60 plus: 1, O Altwick (Ger) 20pts at one lap; 2, D Blundell (Aus) 12, 3, W Freitag (US) 3pts. Sprint: 30-34: 1, K Whiteman (US) 12.947; 2, G Edwards (GB); 3, C Carlson (US). 35-39: 1, A Whaley (US) 12.047, 2, G Stoker (Aus); 3, S Pulford (GB). 40-44: 1, D Le Grys (GB) 11.948; 2, R Braddock (GB); 3, M Zeschke (GB). 45-49: 1, B Stinton (US) 12.385; 2, G Geier (US); 3, N Chenworth (US). 50 plus: 1, O Altwick (Ger) 13.245; 2, R Widmark (US); 3, A Koskinen (Fin). Pursuit: 30-34: 1, C Carlson (US) 4.39.169; 2, S Preiler (Ger) 4.47.402, 3, G Cook (GB) 4.59.810. 35-39: 1, S Wackstrom (Fin) 3.34.686; 2, G Roberts (US) 3.38.627; 3, R Upton (Aus) ride over. 50-54: 1, K Jensen (Den) 2.29.290; 2, B Hartley (GB) 2.33.816; 3, G Weigl (Ger) 2.31.521. 55-59: 1, K Wright (GB) 2.34.222; 2, M Nepp (Ger) 2.35.857; 3, J Kloss (US) 2.37.476 Women: 2,000m pursuit: 30-34: 1, J Evans (US) 2.32.846; 2, E Muller (Switz) 2.38.142; 3, V Fitsell (GB) wo 30-39: 1, C Smith (US) 2.35.848; 2, L Kruse (US) 2.41.771; 3, M Groenewald (SA) 2.51.225. 40-44: 1, C Goodman (US) 2.43.723; 2, L Betts (US) 2.52.753, 3, K Stinton (US) 3.01.789. Sprint: 30-39: 1, S Rayray (US) 13.648, 2, L Braley (US); 3, R Conley-Cutting (US) 40 plus: 1, C Goodman (US) 14.372; 2, J Moss (SA); 3, L Betts (US).

TIME TRIALS: BCF national championship (Ripon, North Yorkshire, 26 miles): 1, G Obree (Scotland) 54min 30sec; 2, S Dangerfield (Wheelbase CC) 54.36; 3, J Clay (Manchester Phoenix) 54.47. Team: Edinburgh BC 2-53:28. Other trials: Winners: Harrogate Nova CC (Dishforth, North Yorkshire, 50 miles) K Dawson (GS Strada) 1:37.21 (British record). Norwich ABC (Dereham, 50 miles): M Adams (King's Lynn CC) 1:51.54. Lea Valley RC (Quendon, Essex, 30 miles): R Pope (Finsbury Park CC) 1:07.22. Polytechnic CC (Botley, Oxfordshire, 25 miles): S Yates (Team Clean) 48.57 (course and event record) Ratae RC (Six Hills, Leicestershire, 25 miles) A Long (Coalville Wheelers) 52.54. Essex RCC (women, Hatfield Pevarel, 25 miles): S Gray (API Rasprays) 54.17. Bath CC (25 miles): S Harradine (Cwmcarn Paragon) 55.55. Nairn Wheelers (25 miles): A Wright (Sandy Wallace Cycles) 57.05. Charles Star CC two-up (Dundee, 14 miles): D McCallum (Dundee Wheelers) and Philip Brown (Dundee Thistle) 32.46. Humberside Forum (North Cave, 10 miles): G Obree (Brough Wheelers) 18.36 (course record) London St Christophers CC (Little Paxton, Cambridgeshire, 10 miles): D Willetts (Birchfield CC) 19.22. West Pennine RC (Garstang, 10 miles): G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 19.39 (course and event record). Yeovil CC (Podimore, 10 miles): A Winterbottom (Wellington Wheelers) 20.37. A5 Rangers two-up (Towcester, 10 miles): J Richardson and D Sayers (Team Lutterworth) 20.45.

HILL-CLIMBS: Mid-Devon CC (Hayter Hill, 3.5 miles): 1, J Henderson (Oxford University CC) 13min 02.4sec; 2, M Holland (Tavistock Wheelers) 14.47.0; 3, C Halls (Mid-Devon CC) 15.00.5. ABC Centreville (Blackstone Edge, 2 miles): 1, M Green (Chesterfield Coureurs) 7.51.7; 2, R Clough (Stratford Wheelers) 8.10.0; 3, L Hopkinson (Chesterfield Coureurs) 8.26.0. Leigh Premier RC (Frodsham, 1,400 yards): 1, S Green (Oldham Century RC) 3.18.1; 2, S Bridge (Leigh Premier RC) 3.28.0; 3, S Wharton (Paddington CC) 3.30.5. Cleveland Coureurs four-stage (North Yorkshire, 6 13 miles): 1, D Cook (Middridge CRT) 29.21.4; 2, A Jackson (Cleveland Wheelers) 29.51.6; 3, M Andrew (Wheelbase CC) 30.04.7. Don Valley CCA (Brookhouse Hill, South Yorkshire, 600 yards): 1, J Cryer-Key (Thurcroft CC) 1.04.6; 2, W Dutson (Team Spirit) 1.08.3, 3, R Lister (VC Lincoln) 1.09.0.

ROAD RACE: Redhill CC (Hertold Hill, Surrey, 68 miles): 1, J Bayfield (Controlware RT) 2hr 22min 53sec; 2, M Walsham (Controlware) at 10sec; 3, J Sutton (Eastbourne Rovers) at 22sec

EQUESTRIANISM

WEMBLEY: Horse of the Year Show: Turpin Stakes: 1, Dolly (P Charles, Ire) 56.55. 2, Virtual Village Silk (M Whitaker, GB) 57.04, 3, Virtual Village Showtime (N Skelton, GB) 58.50 Pulsesance: 1, Segrat (G Goosen, GBr), 2, Plantero (F Mathey, Bel); 3, Virtual Village Elton (M Whitaker, GB). Chrissy Championship leading junior showjumper of the year: 1, Colton Maalstrom (S Pharo) 0 in 40.09; 2, Huntsman's Turn (C Leaming) 7 in 56.21; 3, Dusty Boy (B Maher) 3 in 66.20. Daewood Championship: 1, Moneymore (C Edwards) 0 in 39.94; 2, Eldorado (V Whitaker) 3 in 44.14; 3, Virtual Village Magic Carpet (M Whitaker) 4 in 31.13; 4, Virtual Village Grannusch (J Whitaker) 4 in 33.06 Martin Collins leading showjumper of the year: 1, Virtual Village Heyman (J Whitaker, GB) 0 in 32.61, 2, Virtual Village Zalza (N Skelton) 0 in 31.57; 3, Virtual Village It's Otto (G Billington) 0 in 32.61. Venues of Legends: 1, Virtual Village Silk (M Whitaker, GB) 0 in 32.43; 2, Virtual Village Zalza (N Skelton, GB); 3, Desire (E Castellini, It) 0 in 34.47. The Templeton Supreme In-Hand Champion: S Rowe's Mendana. Reserve: L Lucas's Huttons Ambo Cameka. Speed horse of the year: 1, Helada (S Corten, Bel) 45.36; 2, Valentino (R Smith, GB) 45.35; 3, Shurlands Governor (F Mathey, Bel) 46.12.

ACHSELSCHWANG, Germany: International three-day event: Leading positions: 1, King Solomon (M King, GB) 40.4 penalties; 2, Aspiring (B Tait, NZ) 47.8; 3, Cartoon (A Nicholson, NZ) 50.8. 4, Sydney James (T Clapham, GBr) 54.26

GOLF

ENDICOTT, New York: BC Open: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 204: S Cink 73, 64, 67. 205: B Claar 70, 70, 65, G Hjertstedt (Swe) 70, 69, 66, R Gamez 70, 67, 68. 206: A Magee 67, 70, 69, P Stankowski 71, 68, 67. 207: C Perry 69, 69, 69; B Fleisher 70, 66, 71. 208: R Green (Aus) 71, 68, 69; C Rymer 72, 66, 70; G Kraft 66, 71, 71; J McGovern 68, 68, 72; G Waite (NZ) 69, 67, 72. 209: J Wilson 70, 69, 70; B Andrade 70, 72, 67. D Sutherland 69, 72, 68: D Stockton Jr 68, 72, 69; S Murphy 67, 72, 70

CORNELIUS, North Carolina: Fieldcrest Cannon Classic: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 195: W Ward 65, 65, 64. 201: R Jones 67, 69, 65; B King 67, 68, 66. 202: J Geddes 69, 66, 67. 203: K Robbins 66, 69, 68; J Inkster 67, 67, 69; L Neumann (Swe) 66, 66, 71. 204: T Barrett 69, 68, 67, M Mallon 70, 66, 68, P Johnson (GB) 70, 66, 68; J Gallagher-Smith 70, 66, 68; K Parker-Gregory 68, 68, 68. 205: C Kerr 69, 64, 72; D Pepper 67, 67, 71; L Kane 70, 68, 69

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Group A: Sheffield Steelers 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 3; Telford Tigers 8 Paisley Pirates 4 Group B: Basingstoke Bison 6 Bracknell Bees 2; Nottingham Panthers 9 Slough Jets 1

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: Men's junior World Cup: Play-offs: Fifth-eighth: Holland 2 Pakistan 5; Spain 0 Argentina 3 Ninth-twelfth: Egypt 4 Belgium 2; Cuba 5 Japan 2 (aet). Eleventh-twelfth: Belgium 3 Japan 5 Ninth-tenth: Cuba 2 Egypt 3. Fifth-sixth: Pakistan 4 Argentina 2. Seventh-eighth: Holland 5 Spain 4 Third-fourth: Germany 4 England 2 Semi-finals: India 4 Germany 3 (aet); England 1 Australia 2 Final: Australia 3 India 2

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding 2 Sheffield Bankers 1, Harrogate 5 Chester 1; Neston 0 Formby 0, Norton 3 Timperley 1; Southport 5 Swalwell 3.

MEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Beckenham 0 St Albans 4, High Wycombe 4 Bath Buccaneers 2; Loughborough Students 1 Sheffield 5; Norwich 1 Dereham 5, Oxford Hawks 6 Hampton 2; Peterborough 3 Northampton 2; Teddington 4 Canterbury 3, Chelmsford 5 Bluehearts 1, E Grinstead 2 Teddington 1, Old Loughtonians 3 Teddington 2, E Grinstead 2 Old Loughtonians 3; Guildford 2 Havant 2, Reading 5 Oxford University 1; Southgate 2 St Albans 1; Surbiton 0 Hampstead 2

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Slough 7 Sutton Coldfield 2; Clifton Scottish Life 3 Clifton Tenaquest 1, Trojans 0 Ipswich 3, Doncaster 1 Hightown 2. First division: Canterbury 4 Bracknell 0; Wimbledon 0 Bradford Swithenbank 1; Leicester 1 Chelmsford Highway 1; Sunderland Bedans 2 Loughborough Students 4 Second division: Old Loughtonians 3 Ealing 1; West Witney 1 Sherwood 2; Bluehearts 1 Poynton 5; Aldridge 1 Wolving Swifts 2

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: BSE 2 Cambridge 3, Dereham 2 Ipswich 3, Harleston 1 Ashford 0, Welwyn Garden City 1 Sevenoaks 2. Midlands: Belper 0 Pendeford 3, Hampton 1 Luton 1, Leicester 0 Rainbows 2; North: Staffs 1 Kettering 1 North: Chester 1 Wirrington Park 0; Leyland 0 Blackburn 1; Liverpool Sefton 3 Sheffield 0; Welton 1 York 1 South: Dulwich 0 Maidenhead 0; Horsham 4 Reading 2, Southampton 1 Hendon 2; Winchester 4 Hampstead 3; Winchmore Hill 3 Tulse Hill 1 West: Cheltenham 0 Bournemouth 1; Exeter 1 St Ausell 2; Exmouth 4 Leamington 0; T Vale 1 Colwall 3, Yate 0 Redland 4

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Newtown 3 Colwyn Bay 0; Penarth 3 Newport 3 Pontypridd 1 Cardiff Ath 2; Swansea 7 Cardiff Inst 0

MOTORCYCLING

JAKARTA: Indonesian Grand Prix: 500cc: 1 T Okada (Japan, Honda) 43 min 22.010 sec 2, M Doohan (Aus, Honda) 43:22.079, 3, A Criville (Sp, Honda) 43:33.001 4, N Aoki (Japan, Honda) 43:33.793, 5, N Abe (Japan, Yamaha) 43.34.203 250cc: 1, M Biaggi (It, Honda) 41:35.549, 2, T Ukawa (Japan, Honda) 41.42.141; 3, O Jacque (Fr, Honda) 41:43.528, 4, T Harada (Japan, Aprilia) 41:44.946, 5, T Tsujimura (Japan, Honda) 41:52.741 125cc: 1, V Rossi (It, Aprilia) 41:14.511; 2, K Sakata (Japan, Aprilia) 41:17.539; 3, J Martinez (Sp, Aprilia) 41.19.743; 4, N Ueda (Japan, Honda) 41.22.880; 5, T Manako (Japan, Honda) 41:23.440.

ROWING

CHESTER SCULLS: Men: Single: Elite: 1, R Stanhope (Royal Chester) 19mn 44sec; 2, G Pooley (Leander) 19 45; 3, M Chandler (Royal Chester) 19 52. Senior one: J McGarve (Royal Chester) 20.41. Senior two: W Holford (Runcorn) 20 33. Senior three: J Davenport (Royal Chester) 20.28 Double: Elite: Worcester/Stourport 19mn Senior two: Stourport 19.55 Senior three: Wennington 19.47. Quadruple: Elite: Royal Chester/Leander 16.52. Senior two: Worcester 19 04. Women: Single: Senior one: A Sanders (City of Sheffield) 22.16. Senior two: S Diggle (Royal Chester) 23.15. Senior three: S Rankin (Warwick) 23.56 Quadruple: Senior two: Royal Chester 20 08 Senior three: Northwich 20.24

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Premiership

Final

St Helens 20 Wigan 33

St Helens: Tries: Anderson, Hammond, McVey, Newlove. Goals: Long 2 Wigan Warriors: Tries: Farrell, Haughton, A Johnson, Radlinski, Robinson Goals: Farrell 6 Dropped goal: Wright. Att: 33,389.

Divisional Premiership

Final

Huddersfield 18 Hull 0

Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Bunyan, Cheetham, Davys Goals: Cook 3.

(both at Old Trafford)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Ask-am 24 Heworth 22; Beverley 42 Wigan St Patrick's 20; Dudley Hill 12 Egremont 30; Lock Lane 8 West Hull 16; Mayfield 16 Saddleworth 12; Oldham St Anne's 17 Woolston 10; Walney Central 14 Leigh Miners 6 First division: Barrow Island 14 Oulton 15; East Leeds 25 Blackbrook 22; Leigh East 24 Milford 30; Moldgreen 14 Millom 18; Radhill 64 Shaw Cross 20; Skirlaugh 20 Thornhill 10; Wigan St Jude's 22 Eastmoor 12 Second division: Crosfields 13 Featherstone Amateur 46; Eccles 37 Dewsbury Moor 6

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Final: Newcastle 22 Manly 16 (in Sydney)

SQUASH

MINNEAPOLIS: United States Open: Men: Quarter-finals: Men: P Marshall (Eng) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-7, 15-14, 15-13; S Parke (Eng) bt A Hill (Aus) 9-15, 15-10, 1-15, 15-7, 15-10; J Power (Can) bt D Harris (Eng) 15-6, 15-8, 15-14; P Nicol (Scot) bt A Gough (Wales) 15-10, 15-10, 15-11. Semi-finals: Parke bt Marshall 9-15, 15-7, 15-6, 15-17, 15-11; Power bt Parke 15-6, 15-10, 15-6. Final: Power bt Parke 15-6, 15-10, 15-6. Women: Quarter-finals: C Jackman (Eng) bt F Geaves (Eng) 9-3, 9-0, 9-3; S Horner (Eng) bt N Grainger (SA) 9-6, 9-5, 9-6; S Schöne (Ger) bt R Macree (Eng) 9-0, 9-4, 3-9, 9-5; S Wright (Eng) bt K Mayor (Aus) 9-6, 9, 9-5; S Wright (Eng) bt K Mayor (Aus) 9-6, 3-9, 9-5, 9-4, Semi-finals: Jackman bt Horner 9-4, 9-7, 9-3; Schöne bt Wright 3-9, 9-3, 9-5, 9-6 Final: Jackman bt Schöne 9-4, 9-4, 9-6.

TENNIS

MUNICH: Compaq Grand Slam Cup: Semi-finals: P Rafter (Aus) bt P Korda (Cz) 7-5, 3-6, 6-7, 7-6, 9-7; P Sampras (US) bt G Rusedski (GB) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-2. Final: Sampras bt Rafter 6-2, 6-4, 7-5

TOULOUSE: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: N Kiefer (Ger) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt V Spadea (US) 7-5, 6-4 Final: Kiefer bt Philippoussis 7-5, 5-7, 6-4

BUCHAREST: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: A Gaudenzi (It) bt M-K Goliner (Ger) 6-2, 7-6; R Fromberg (Aus) bt F Clavet (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Final: Fromberg bt Gaudenzi 6-1, 7-6

SUNDERLAND: Satellite tournament: Men: Semi-finals: D Sapsford (GB) bt R Barbier (Fr) 3-0 ret; L Milligan (GB) bt N Watts (GB) 6-2, 6-2 Final: Milligan bt Sapsford 7-5, 6-3. Women: Final: M Joubert (SA) bt N Egorova (Russ) 6-3, 1-6, 7-5.

LEIPZIG: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: A Coetzer (SA) bt M Hingis (Switz) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6, J Novotna (Cz) bt A Huber (Ger) 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 Final: Novotna bt Coetzer 6-2, 4-6, 6-3

SURABAYA, Indonesia: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: L Nemeckova (Cz) bt M A Verrio (Ven) 6-4, 6-3; D van Roost (Bel) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 6-2, 7-5 Final: Van Roost bt Nemeckova 6-1, 6-3

CRICKET

Second Test match

Zimbabwe v New Zealand

BULAWAYO (fourth day of five): Zimbabwe, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 210 runs ahead of New Zealand

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 461 (G J Whittall 203 not out, G W Flower 83, G J Rennie 57, D L Vettori 4 for 165)

Second Innings

G J Rennie lbw b Astle	24
G W Flower run out	49
†A Flower c and b Harris	7
G J Whittall not out	41
*A D R Campbell not out	19
Extras (lb 7, w 3, nb 2)	12
Total (3 wkts)	152

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-75, 2-80, 3-91.

BOWLING: O'Connor 5-0-35-0; Sewell 4-0-8-0; Cairns 6-1-24-0; Vettori 13-3-52-0; Astle 9-6-18-1; Harris 7-3-10-1.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

C M Spearman c Huckle b P A Strang	47
B A Pocock lbw b P A Strang	27
M J Horne lbw b P A Strang	5
*S P Fleming c P A Strang b Huckle	27
N J Astle c sub b Huckle	98
C L Cairns c Rennie b Huckle	0
†A C Parore c G W Flower b Huckle	17
C Z Harris b Huckle	71
D L Vettori c B C Strang b Huckle	90
S B O'Connor run out	7
D G Sewell not out	1
Extras (lb 1, lb 9, nb 5)	15
Total	403

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-76, 3-92, 4-130, 5-130, 6-162, 7-259, 8-371, 9-389.

BOWLING: Streak 15-5-26-0; Matambanadzo 15-4-52-0; P A Strang 47-19-110-3, Huckle 40.4-10-109-6; B C Strang 26-12-50-0; Whittall 6-1-14-0; G W Flower 10-2-19-0; Campbell 2-0-13-0.

Umpires: R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe) and S Venkataraghavan (India).

First one-day international match

Pakistan v India

HYDERABAD (India won toss). Pakistan beat India by five wickets

INDIA

*S R Tendulkar b Waqar	2
S C Ganguly c Hasan b Waqar	0
R R Singh b Saqlain	20
M Azharuddin b Shahid	31
R S Dravid b Aqib	50
A D Jadeja b Aqib	41
†S S Karim c Ijaz b Saqlain	0
R K Cheuhan c Ijaz b Saqlain	0
A P Kuruvilla b Aqib	0
N Kulkarni b Aqib	1
D Mohanty not out	1
Extras (lb 1, lb 8, w 13, nb 2)	24
Total (49 overs)	170

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-3, 3-61, 4-77, 5-168, 6-167, 7-167, 8-169, 9-169

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 7-1-21-2; Aqib Javed 8-0-29-4; Azhar Mahmood 9-0-35-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 9-3-13-3; Shahid Afridi 10-0-38-1; Ijaz Ahmed 6-0-25-0

PAKISTAN

*Saeed Anwar lbw b Kulkarni	30
Shahid Afridi lbw b Kulkarni	45
Ijaz Ahmed c Tendulkar b Singh	22
Salim Elahi run out	8
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out	35
Hasan Raza c Tendulkar b Kulkarni	5
†Moin Khan not out	12
Extras (b 2, lb 6, w 5, nb 1)	14
Total (5 wkts, 44.3 overs)	171

Saqlain Mushtaq, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis and Aqib Javed did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70, 2-87, 3-106, 4-113, 5-138

BOWLING: Kuruvilla 8-1-23-0; Mohanty 4-0-23-0; Chauhan 10-2-40-0; Kulkarni 10-2-27-3; Singh 5-0-14-1; Ganguly 4-0-21-0; Tendulkar 3-1-11-0; Jadeja 0 3-0-4-0.

Man of the match: Aqib Javed

Umpires: Salim Badar and Sad Shah

HONG KONG: International six-a-side tournament: First round: Blue group: Australia 49 Bangladesh 50-1 (Bangladesh win by five wickets); India 83-2 Bangladesh 84-3 (Bangladesh win by three wickets); India 71-2 Australia 72-4 (Australia win by two wickets) Red group: West Indies 68-1 South Africa 68-5 (West Indies win by four wickets); Sri Lanka 92-1 South Africa 87-2 (Sri Lanka win by 5 runs); West Indies 82-3 Sri Lanka 71-4 (West Indies win by 11 runs). Green group: England 88-3 Hong Kong 73-4 (England win by 15 runs); Pakistan 98-2 Hong Kong 74-1 (Pakistan win by 24 runs); England 93-1 Pakistan 57-3 (England win by 36 runs). Second round: Bradman group: Pakistan 100-3 Bangladesh 65-4 (Pakistan win by 35 runs); West Indies 70-3 Pakistan 73-2 (Pakistan win by four wickets), West Indies 84-3 Bangladesh 59-5 (West Indies win by 25 runs). Sobers group: Sri Lanka 84-5 Australia 81-2 (Sri Lanka win by 3 runs); England 91-5 Australia 71-5 (England win by 20 runs); England 70-3 Sri Lanka 65-2 (England win by 5 runs) Consolation tournament: Hong Kong 80-2 South Africa 20-6 (Hong Kong win by 40 runs); South Africa 100-1 India 64-3 (South Africa win by 36 runs) Bowl final: Hong Kong 93-4 India 76-2 (Hong Kong win by 17 runs) Plate final: Sri Lanka 101-4 West Indies 97-3 (Sri Lanka win by 4 runs) Cup final: Pakistan 72-3 England 70-5 (Pakistan win by three wickets)



Pete Sampras, the Wimbledon champion, lifts the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich yesterday after beating Patrick Rafter, the United States Open champion, in straight sets in the final. Report, page 40

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Belle Vue 54 Swindon 36, Peterborough 48 Poole 41; Swindon 43 Coventry 47; Belle Vue 50 Poole 40, Eastbourne 56 Bradford 34

PREMIER LEAGUE: Berwick 50 Sheffield 39; Stoke 43 Edinburgh 47; Glasgow 55 Isle of Wight 35.

AMATEUR LEAGUE: Mildenhall 40 Buxton 38

BERWICK: Silver Helmet match race: S Smith (Berwick holder) bt J Pingel (Sheffield)

ARENA ESSEX: Revenge challenge: Eastenders 52 Newport Wasrenders 38

OXFORD: Premier League best pairs: Long Eaton 33 (C Stonehewer 18, M Dixon 15), Reading 31 (L Richardson 19, D Mullen 12); Exeter 28 (M Coles 21, L Lanham 7) Oxford 26 (L Hare 20, N Tatum 6); Sheffield 26 (R Kessler 18, S Smith 8); Glasgow 23 (M Powell 13, N Collins 10), Edenburgh 22 (P Carr 17, K McKinna 5)

CHALLENGE MATCH: Newport 52 The Specialists 38

SCHOOLS SPORT

Rugby union

Ashville 27 Ripon GS 3; Beechen Cliff 24 Worth Cathedral 12; Bloxham 69 Oratory 8, Bradford GS 3 Hymers 30; Brighton 57 Seaford 0; Campion 26 John Fisher 27, Caterham 19 St Dunstan's 16; Cheltenham 30 King's, Worcester 7; City of London Freemen's 21 Whitgift 3; Cranleigh 10 Wellington, Berkshire 15; Dulwich 53 RGS, Guildford 5; Dundee HS 0 Edinburgh 67, Durham 47 St Bees 3; Eastbourne 41 Cranbrook 0; Habardashers' Aske's, Elstree 25 OE Barnet 6; Haileybury 5 Uppingham 20; Harrow 20 Bedford 7; Hurstpierpoint 28 Worth 5; King's 22 St George's, Weybridge 15, King's, Bruton 32 Dauntsey's 19; King's, Canterbury 19 St John's, Leatherhead 25; King's, Macclesfield 24 QEGS, Wakefield 27; Kirkham GS 29 King Edward VII, Lytham 7, Lalymer Upper 19 UCS 7; Marling GS 12 Dean Close 15; Merchant Taylors', Northwood 7 Pretoria HS (SA) 46; Monmouth 32 Bristol GS 5; Newcastle RGS 10 Ampleforth 14; The Perse 12 Royal Hospital Sch 20; QEH, Bristol 21 Plymouth Coll 10; RGS, High Wycombe 21 Millfield 22; Radley 3 Tonbridge 7; Reigate GS 31 Epsom Coll 10; Ryde & Chichester HS 20; St Albans 5 Berkhamsted 11; St Edward's, Liverpool 37 Rydal 7, St Edward's, Oxford 23 Oundle 28; St Joseph's 25 Hampton 17; Sir Roger Manwood's 51 Ursuline 0; Stamford 3 Bedford Modern 10; Stockport GS 36 Cheadle Hulme 15; Stonyhurst 10 Merchant Taylors', Crosby 8; Trent Coll 10 Oakham 16; Trinity 7 St Paul's, Barnes 55, Truro 42 Wellington, Somerset 7; Warwick 57 Solihull 0; Wimbledon 26 Eltham 43; Cranleigh 10 Wellington Coll 15; Mount St Mary's 15 Wellbeck Coll 5; RGS Worcester 38 Hereford Cathedral 0; Blundells 15 Sherborne 17; Kingswood 46 Queen's, Taunton 14; Loughborough GS 17 RGS Worcester 30; Portsmouth GS 14 King Edward's, Southampton 4 Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: First round: Park Coll 5 Chichester HS 58; St Edmund's, Ware 25 King John's, Southend 38; Whitgift 55 Esher Coll 0.

Football

FUJI FILM TROPHY: First round: Darlington 0 East Northumberland 1; Sunderland 5 Chester-le-Street 1; Newcastle 4 Hartlepool 0; Gateshead 1 East Durham 1; Middlesbrough 9 Copeland 0; Carlisle 0 Bishop Auckland 1; Allerdale 2 Redcar and Cleveland 1; Harrogate 2 Rotherham 5; Spen Valley 2 Barnsley 3; Wakefield

THAMES WATER IN TURKEY

FOCUS

Michael Knipe introduces a seven-page report on a modern engineering project that will quench the thirst of an ancient city

Miracle of the millennium dam

The villagers of Yuvacik, 80 miles east of Istanbul, are beginning to trek up the narrow lanes and through the lush forests of the Kocaeli district to view the dam straddling the Kirazdere river valley as it nears completion.

From 1976 to 1979 it lay only half built and abandoned for lack of funding. But today, from the bushes at the brow of the hill, pungent with the smell of fresh thyme, the villagers look down on a structure dotted with lorries and bulldozers, busy with the task of finishing the construction by 1998.

The 108-metre high dam is modest by Turkish standards of water engineering, but one that will dramatically change the hitherto timeless environment of the Kocaeli region. Linked to a massive water treatment plant that will provide drinking water to 1.5 million people, it represents a world-first in international project financing and a major triumph in the global marketplace for Thames Water which leads the consortium responsible for the venture.

At a cost of US$864 million (£546 million), it is the largest UK-led infrastructure project to be constructed in Turkey since the first Bosphorus bridge was built, more than 25 years ago.

Behind this huge development project is an ingeniously created international joint venture company led by Thames Water which, in addition to serving London and the Thames Valley, has become the world's third largest private water company.

Thames's partners in the Izmit venture are Gama Endestri and Guris Insaat, two leading Turkish construction companies, two Japanese international investment companies, Mitsui & Company and the Sumitomo Corporation, and the Greater Municipality of Izmit.

The complex financing arrangements were masterminded by Thames, their bankers, NatWest Markets and their financial advisers, Chase Manhattan Bank. W.S.Atkins have been the consultant engineers from the beginning, assessing the yield of the proposed reservoir, the design of the dam and the distribution system, reviewing the contract specifications and monitoring the construction work.

"The Izmit development is a highly significant one and everyone here is delighted that Thames, in cooperation with its partners, has brought it off, said David Logan, the British Ambassador. It signals the UK's long-term commitment to the Turkish marketplace."

In setting up and pursuing the Izmit project, Thames and its partners were exploring uncharted intellectual territory, as there was no clear legal or constitutional framework to build, operate and transfer projects in Turkey.

They were subjected first to months and then years of delay and prevarication caused by the spirited opposition of some critical political elements, a frequently powerless Turkish civil service bureaucracy, a painfully slow legal process in resolving constitutional issues, interspersed with changes of government and the complications caused by the Gulf War. In consequence, the eventual success of the Izmit scheme represents a triumph for the patience and dogged determination of the Thames Water directors and the supporting banks.

"We certainly underestimated the difficulties in getting political support and legislation," says Bill Alexander, Thames' chief executive. "It took seven years and during that time we told our investors we'd won the project several times. But the delay was in securing the project not in executing it.

"It took a long time to negotiate and set up the financial structure. But now we're three months ahead of schedule and the project is going like an express train."

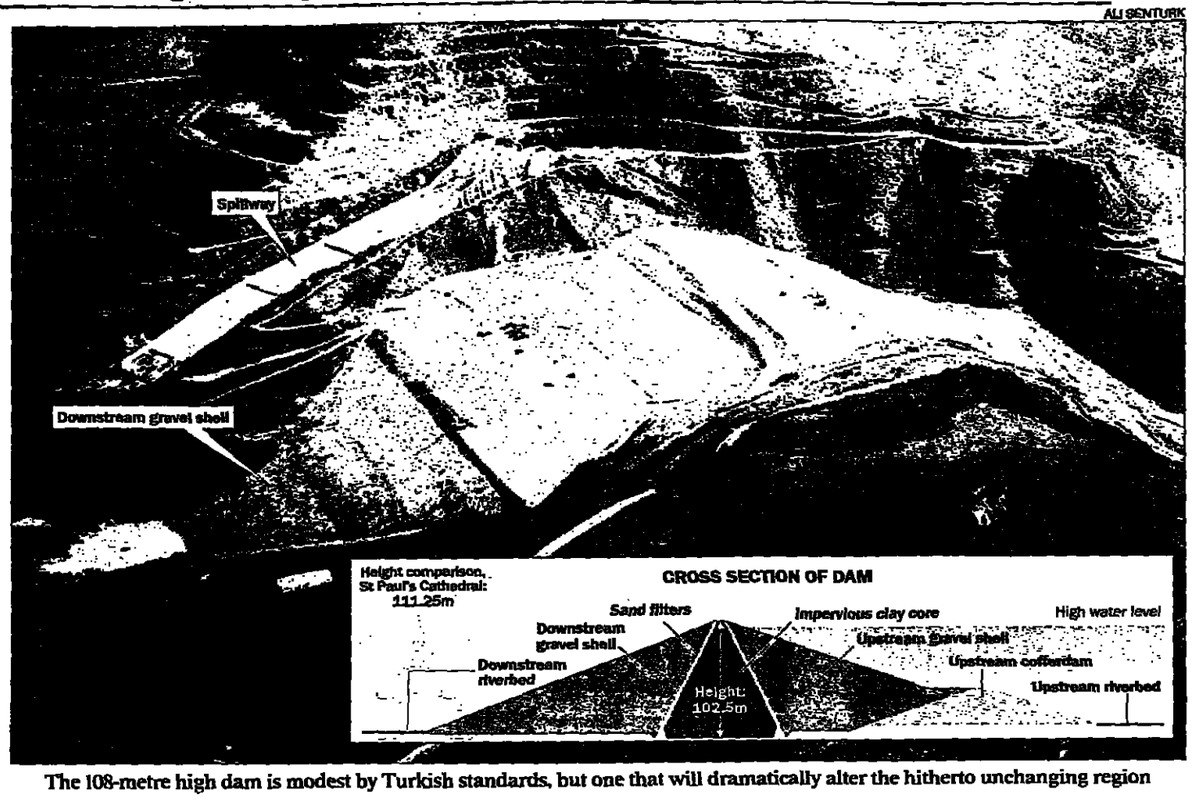
The Izmit development is a particular success for Frank Pawley, a director of Thames Water International, who has nursed it from its conception in 1989 to its completion, which is set for 1999.

The dam and water treatment plant will deliver water to the domestic and industrial consumers spread for 70 miles along the northern shores of the Sea of Marmara between Izmit and Istanbul, a region where supplies are sparse and often unavailable for days at a time.

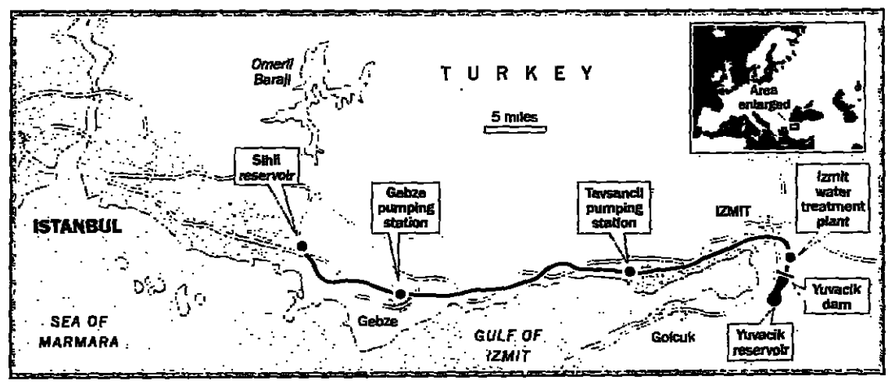
It is being financed and constructed on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis, an innovative means of funding major infrastructure projects when more conventional means are lacking.

It is a method of financing that was pioneered by the Turkish Government on the initiative of its former Prime Minister and President, the late Turgot Ozal, but one that took some time to activate. It is now receiving strong encouragement from Mr Ozal's successor, President Demirel, who was a water engineer before entering politics and is widely known as the "king of dams".

Under the BOT arrangement, once the project has been completed Thames Water will operate and maintain it for 15 years before handing it over to the Izmit municipality. Thames will also train and administer the Turkish personnel who will be responsible for the maintainance. As Turkey is an earthquake prone region, the dam — 398 metres wide with a 108-metre high crest — is an earth-filled construction rather than a concrete one and is being built to an original design by Deviet Su Isleri, the Turkish state hydraulics department.



The 108-metre high dam is modest by Turkish standards, but one that will dramatically alter the hitherto unchanging region



The source of the water is the Kirazdere springs which rise in the mountains to the south of Izmit. After leaving the springs the water will be impounded by a dam consisting of five million cubic metres of soil quarried from the surrounding area.

About 60,000 cubic metres of concrete is being poured into various sections of the dam wall, a spillage gate, the control buildings nearby and the reservoir, which will flood the Kirazdere river valley. Although it will extend through the valley for 4.5 miles, the reservoir will cause the abandonment of only six dwellings as the valley is otherwise uninhabited.

The spillway constructed alongside the dam is controlled by four radial gates that will discharge about 140 million cubic metres of water a year into the supply system. The water will be transported in 2.2-metre diameter steel pipes sunk in underground tunnels — "big enough to bury a bus" says Ali Senturk, the general manager of Izmit Su — the Turkish registered company incorporated especially to handle the Izmit project.

Travelling first through a diversion tunnel to a steel pipe, the water will be delivered to a treatment plant three miles downstream.

Of conventional style, the treatment plant, incorporated in structures built by Guris, was designed by PWT Projects, a Thames Water company since bought by Black & Veatch and renamed Paterson Candy.

The treatment plant will have a capacity of 390,000 cubic metres per day and will be capable of processing 4.5 cubic metres of water a second into drinking water.

Part of the treatment process consists of aeration and chemical application before the water is passed through a bank of six flat-bottomed sludge blanket clarifiers and then on to 20 filters with combined airscour and backwash processes. Sludge will be thickened and transferred to onsite lagoons, while the treated water will be chlorinated prior to discharge.

Once purified, the water will be distributed around an area extending as far as 60 miles from the treatment works down a steel trunk main spine pipeline, that will extend westward to Istanbul.

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Izmit Su A.S.

on its achievements.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only. December, 1995

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CHASE
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Michael Knipe looks at how London's revitalised water company has earned international recognition for its enterprise

Today, the Thames, tomorrow the world

THAMES WATER INTERNATIONAL

The announcement that Thames Water had been awarded a huge contract to supply the Indonesian capital of Jakarta with half its water for the next 25 years was the subject of wry comment when it was made in June.

Many domestic consumers in London wondered why a water company charged primarily with servicing the water requirements of 7.3 million people in the South East of England should be so busy abroad solving other people's problems. Surely it had more than enough problems at home, where it has the highest leakage rate in Britain?

The answer, Bill Alexander, Thames's chief executive, explained is that there is tremendous opportunity for growth abroad for privatised water companies while real growth is unlikely in the UK for what is, in practice, a monopoly product.

And the value added to the company by its international business, both in expertise gained and revenue received, provides it with additional resources that can be invested in improving water services at home. Leakage in the Thames region, he says, is now declining as a result of the company's £200 million investment programme and 800 people are committed to the task of reducing it by half by 2000.

In sharp contrast to the negative image it is sometimes seen to have in Britain, the company is widely respected abroad. It is now the third largest private water company in the world.

"The nature of water management has meant that there has been little international competition in the past," said Mr Alexander. "But the privatisation of the British water companies in 1989 put ten new companies into the international water sector to compete with others who had had the world market to themselves.

"Water is a product that cannot be substituted so there is limited opportunity for expansion at home. But the water industry is now very competitive in the UK and this has given us considerable advantages abroad.



THAMES WATER

Thames chief executive Bill Alexander: tremendous opportunity for growth abroad for water companies

"Thames Water has now won seven important international contracts and this success has come about because we are very competitive in comparison to our foreign competitors.

"We can make bids that are well under our customers' expectations. We look for the least cost in everything we do and leverage this into new markets."

In addition to the Izmit and Jakarta projects, Thames's five other major drinking water contracts abroad are in Puerto Rico, Adelaide in Australia, Pathum Thani in Thailand, Kelantan in Malaysia and Da Chang in China. In total they will provide water services for 13 million people.

The company points out that it provides employment for around 2,000 people through its international businesses and its projects provide job opportunities for many more in allied industries.

It is looking for business wherever in the world there is large scale urban growth, says Mr Alexander.

"Our problem in the UK is that the growth for our core business of providing water services is no more than 0.5 to 1 per cent a year and that won't sustain our shareholders' expectations. In Shanghai the population is moving from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy and there are 33,000 construction projects under way. We are providing water supplies for that rapidly growing urban population. It is the same in Jakarta, Thailand, Malaysia and Turkey. We have the experience to provide water faster, cheaper and of better quality than any other water company.

"Our strategy," says Mr Alexander, "is to maximise the opportunities available to us as one of the premier water services providers in the world. We are exporting excellence and using our expertise gained in running our highly successful, value for money, water and waste business in the UK.

"All our projects are properly priced and we have the ability to finish ahead of time and under budget."

HOME MARKET

SUCCESS overseas has been built on Thames Water's long experience in operating water systems. It has been helped by the company's more recent experience in managing major projects.

The £250 million 48 mile Thames Water Ring Main that circles London 40 metres underground — one of the capital's most complex civil engineering projects — was completed in 1994, two years ahead of schedule and under budget.

Besides showcase projects such as the Ring main, Thames Water is project managing a massive investment in its home market — upgrading infrastructure to meet stringent European Union directives. Pat Jackson, the commercial director, says: "We're spending more than £1 million a day on improvements for customers — £350 to £400 million a year over the medium term."

The growth in Thames Water's export business is an essential counterbalance to the home market where industry regulator OFWAT has set demanding targets on leakage control, for example, while pegging customer charges.

To help to fund the necessary improvements, Thames Water has had to continually look for savings — and once again there are implications for overseas. Mr Jackson explains: "Investment in new technology and process as well as outsourcing has enabled us to reduce our workforce from 8,000 pre-privatisation to about 6,000. Because of this we have been able to find excellent people to manage our overseas programme."

STEVEN HOARE

A pioneering pattern for the future

WORLDWIDE CONCEPT

The Izmit water supply system is only the second infrastructure project proceeding in Turkey under BOT, the build, operate and transfer process — a concept now used worldwide but pioneered by Turkey — and it is the first Turkish water supply project to be concluded in this manner.

Gama Endustri is the Turkish construction company building the dam section and a partner with Thames in a Turkish-registered company set up to handle the project. Ergil Ersu, the general manager, says: "It will be a model for future projects, and as such it is very significant."

Though Turkey has a dynamic private sector with entrepreneurial traders and business people, the country's public sector had for many years been paralysed by under-investment and inefficiency.

Since the early 1980s, the economy has been crippled by loss-making state industries and a lack of tax revenue that has resulted in a poor international credit rating and a Government inability to finance infrastructure projects. It was to overcome this problem, that Turgut Ozal, the former Prime Minister and President, first formulated the BOT concept in the early 1980s. The essence of this formula is to encourage foreign companies to invest in development projects which they then proceed to operate for long enough to recoup their investment and to make a profit, after which they hand over the projects to the local or national authorities.

It is a formula designed to attain the benefits of privatisation without the drawbacks of losing control of national resources and as such has been widely replicated in the developing world.

But though the BOT concept was conceived in Turkey, the Government in Ankara has been far less adept at implementing the process. The reason is that the experiences of the post-Ottoman period, when Turkey lost its empire, still resonate in the national consciousness. The constitution, written in the aftermath of the Ottoman period, stipulates that all public services are the responsibility of the State and "concessions" are specifically cited as being unconstitutional.

A legal battle had to be fought to establish, in Turkey's supreme administrative court, that the BOT projects were commercial contracts rather than concessions.

In the past decade, there has been fierce parliamentary resistance to the efforts of successive centre-right governments, first under Mr Ozal and then under Suleyman Demirel and Tansu Ciller, to introduce economic reforms centred on the privatisation of loss-making state enterprises. BOT schemes have been widely regarded as a "backdoor" form of privatisation and have been subjected to similar opposition.

Efforts to provide a legal basis for BOT schemes have been blocked by left wing factions in parliament and as a result have been referred to Turkey's constitutional court. The court has usually upheld the reformist laws but only after much delay and a degree of modification that has often rendered them ineffective.

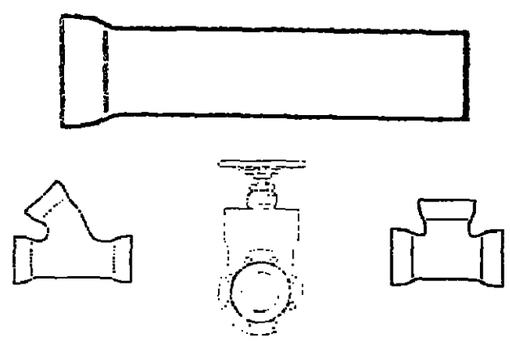
Thames obtained a decree from Turkey's Council of Ministers authorising the project to proceed unamended.

The success of the Izmit project is expected to open the way to a host of other BOT projects. There are said to be at least 115 awaiting the go-ahead in the power, water and transport sectors.

MICHAEL KNIPE

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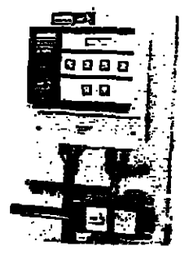


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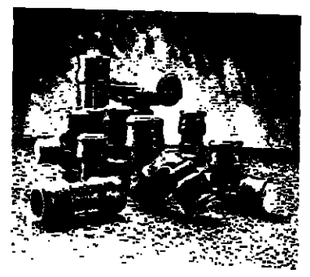


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Marathon of the money men

Michael Knipe reports on how the funding was found

FINANCE



Luffrum: co-operation

Unprecedented co-operation by the export credit agencies of Britain, Japan and France was a key element in the funding of the US$864 million Izmit dam and water treatment plant, the world's biggest privately financed water supply project.

But David Luffrum, finance and planning director at Thames Water, says this co-operation came about only because of the strength of his company's balance sheet, its international reputation for high quality infrastructure work and its close relationship with its banks, led by NatWest, which also backed the project.

The bankers' confidence was in turn based largely on the company's success in attracting Japanese and French partners to the scheme, but also on the willingness of the Greater Izmit Municipality to invest in the project.

"By anyone's standard's this was a big undertaking," said Mr Luffrum, as he recalled the seven years of negotiations it took even before the construction work began.

"We had nothing like it on our books. It involved a large upfront capital component and one that had to be committed before any revenue could be earned. We had to persuade the client — the Izmit municipality, and the Turkish Government — that plans were viable; and we had to get a financial structure together that we could take to the financial markets."

During the early discussions in the late 1980s, an equity-to-debt ratio of 15:85 was discussed and Thames held firm to this structure when the company made its first submissions at the end of 1989. But the original structure gave rise to two concerns, said Mr Luffrum. First, that the volume of debt required for the local works was probably in excess of the appetite of commercial banks; and secondly, that a source of supply and export credit for the $150 million of large-bore steel pipes had not been resolved.

Thames was fairly confident, he said, that the UK's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) would cover the supply of equipment, worth some $200 million, for the water treatment plants and pumping station, but it doubted that the ECGD would cover the $150 million for the pipes.

To overcome this problem, Thames contacted Mitsui, the Japanese financial giant, for help. In 1992, Mitsui proposed that the Japanese Government could provide credit support through its bilateral aid programme. The credit was dependent only on Mitsui (and later Sumitomo) taking an equity stake in Izmit Su, the Turkish company set up especially for the task. This meant that the untied Japanese funding could be used to cover the local works, normally the most difficult area to finance.

Thames, together with Mitsui and the Sumitomo Corporation, then began a worldwide search for a pipe supplier which could also provide export credits. "Working through Klockner INA in Paris and Société Générale on behalf of Coface, Thames concluded that France was best able to suit its technical, commercial and funding needs," said Mr Luffrum.

At this point the financial structure and sources of credit had crystallised with the exception of the commercial bank credit which still had to be found. Thames's advisers were certain that Turkey's credit rating would determine that commercial banks would not accept a ratio of less than 3:1 between export credit-supported lending and pure commercial debt. "But we were confident that the ratio could be achieved given the contribution of the Japanese credit support," said Mr Luffrum.

After strong pressure from Thames on the lead banks — NatWest, Société Générale, Fuji and Sumitomo — tentative bank support was given but was not confirmed until the BO laws were passed by the Turkish Government in acceptable form.

In the summer of 1995, Thames carried out a reappraisal of the project before final commitment. "There were 47 documents to be studied and pantechnicons of papers, as lawyers dealt in an ever-increasing level of detail with the business of coming up with the money," said one of the bankers.

Then, in October 1995, the project was formally released to the international banking market for syndication. Commitments were gathered during October and November leading to a financial close in London on December 19.

The funding was raised in various different ways with $130 million coming from the shareholders of Izmit Su — Thames Water (35 per cent); Gama (23); Izmit municipality (15); Guris (12); Mutsui and Sumitomo (7.5 per cent each). The remaining $734 million came from export credit agencies — ECGD (31 per cent); Coface (23); Jexim (25) and from a syndicate of European and commercial banks (21).

At this stage, Jonathan Whiticar, director of investment banking at NatWest Markets, was able to say to the Turks: "You want it. We can do it. It will cost $860 million."

In December representatives of 27 international banks and of the British, Turkish, Japanese and French Governments, the Izmit municipality and the Turkish construction companies gathered in the ballroom of the Savoy Hotel in London to sign the deal.



MICHAEL KNIPE

Izmit's commercial centre: the city flourished under the late Roman and early Byzantine emperors and is said to have rivalled Alexandria

Soccer-mad mayor kicks city into play

IZMIT

Following the fortunes of the Kocaeli Football Club in the European Cup Winners' Cup this season (the team plays Bucharest in a second leg game on Wednesday) is only one of the passions of Sefa Sirmen, the club's chairman, who is also Mayor of Izmit.

The other and more serious one is the replenishment of Izmit's and the province's water supply, and with it the region's commercial and industrial future.

For the past 20 years as the population has continued to grow — both from births and the arrivals of newcomers from the poorer eastern part of the country — at the rate of 5 per cent, the water supplies of Izmit have been dwindling, and deteriorating in quality.

Today, supplies to private homes in the town of Izmit are restricted to three or four hours daily in the summer months and severely rationed for industrial usage even though the town and the Kocaeli province, after Istanbul, are the focal point of Turkey's industrial production.

It is for this reason that the mayor says, with some feeling, that the dam and the water supply being introduced by the municipality in association with Thames Water, will be "a lifeline for the community".

A dapper and dynamic figure, and the first mayor to be elected for a second four-year term, Mr Sirmen has played a leading role in galvanising local support and bringing the Izmit water supply project to a successful fruition.

The city, with a population of half a million, is situated in the easternmost corner of the Marmara Sea, a few miles further on from Gebze near where Hannibal's tomb is situated.

Made the capital of Bithynia by Nocmedes I, 200BC, Izmit was destroyed by the Goths but restored during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). It flourished under the late Roman and early Byzantine emperors and is said to have rivalled Alexandria in importance.

Though it may once have been a city of great splendour, Izmit today does not rate much space in tourist brochures. But it is a bustling commercial and industrial centre with a deepwater port.

The *per capita* income is $7,500 (£4,600), three times the national average and the town and surrounding Kocaeli province account for 15 per cent of total national industrial production.



Sirmen: galvanising

But, says the mayor, by 1986, construction and investment in the province were at a virtual standstill and with the population growing by 75,000 a year, the water shortages had become critical.

Supplies were being drawn from underground reservoirs and the nearby Lake Sapanca, and fresh water was gradually being replaced by saline water.

The filip the water supply project has given to the community's economic prospects is already considerable and a series of infrastructure projects are under way.

A 15,000-unit house building project is underway and other impending schemes include the construction of a $1 billion scheme to link one side of Izmit Bay with the other and a $100m waste incineration plant.

Hamdi Dogan, the general secretary of the Kocaeli Chamber of Industry, says: "Incentives for industry to site itself here were low for several years, but now investment is returning. The replenishment of our water supplies as a result of the dam project will have an enormously beneficial effect."

MICHAEL KNIPE

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Andrew Finkel looks at the sophistication of Byzantine aqueducts and cisterns, which outshone Rome, and reveals a plan to tunnel...

Where springs are holy

LOCAL HISTORY

Istanbul is a city surrounded by water, but a lot of it is not always fit to swim in, let alone to drink. Plans to purify waste water pouring into the Sea of Marmara, as well as efforts to muck out the sour-smelling Golden Horn, are among the city's priorities. Yet if pollution of the waterways surrounding the city is a modern problem, the shortage of quality drinking water is not.

The Hadrian aqueduct, rebuilt by the Emperor Valens in the 4th century and which runs just in front of the city hall, is a reminder that the issue of water is as old as the city itself.

Like Rome, the New Rome, or the city of Constantinople, was built on seven hills. But those hills have a bedrock of porous travertine stone, with the result that there are no natural aquifers. Alessandra Ricci, a Byzantine archeologist at Ankara's Bilkent University, says: "Water was so rare in the historical peninsula that natural springs were immediately proclaimed holy and are still the site of important Byzantine churches." As a result, the Byzantines and then the Ottomans created a system of aqueducts and cisterns to bring and store water from the Thracian hinterland.

Just how remarkable is now being investigated by Dr Ricci and Jim Crow, a Newcastle University archaeologist. Their original project was to survey the Anastasian Land Wall, 40 miles east of the walls of Constantinople. In its day, the Long Wall was intended as the ultimate deterrent to invading Bulgars and Vlachs. Gradually, however, the archaeologists' attention is turning to the surrounding countryside and the rediscovery of an intricate hydraulic system that includes underground channels and vast, marble-clad aqueducts that span valleys. One theory is that the Long Wall was built not just to protect the capital, a three-day march away but also to safeguard the city's precious water supplies.

This is a notion that should appeal to the modern-day inhabitants of Istanbul, who have learnt to live with the hissing sound of air coming from their taps.

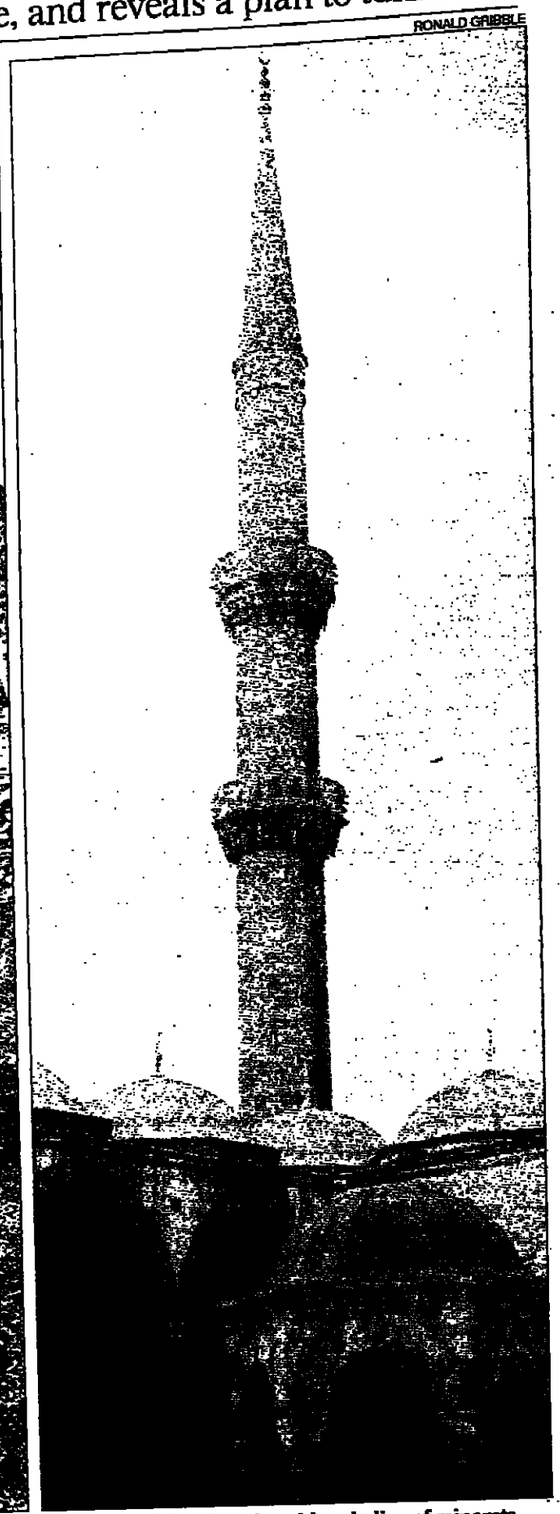
Future demand for water will have to be met by new projects. By 2015, Istanbul's population may have doubled to 25 million, and water demand will have increased at the same rate from the current figure of just over a billion cubic metres a year. The problem is not just one of new settlement. Terkoz, one of the first and still important lake reservoirs on the European side of the city, is in danger of saltwater contamination. This is because of illegal dredging for sand along the coast to be used for the cement.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY



One of the ancient aqueducts that brought water to the city

RONALD GRIBBLE



Istanbul: bustling city with a skyline of minarets

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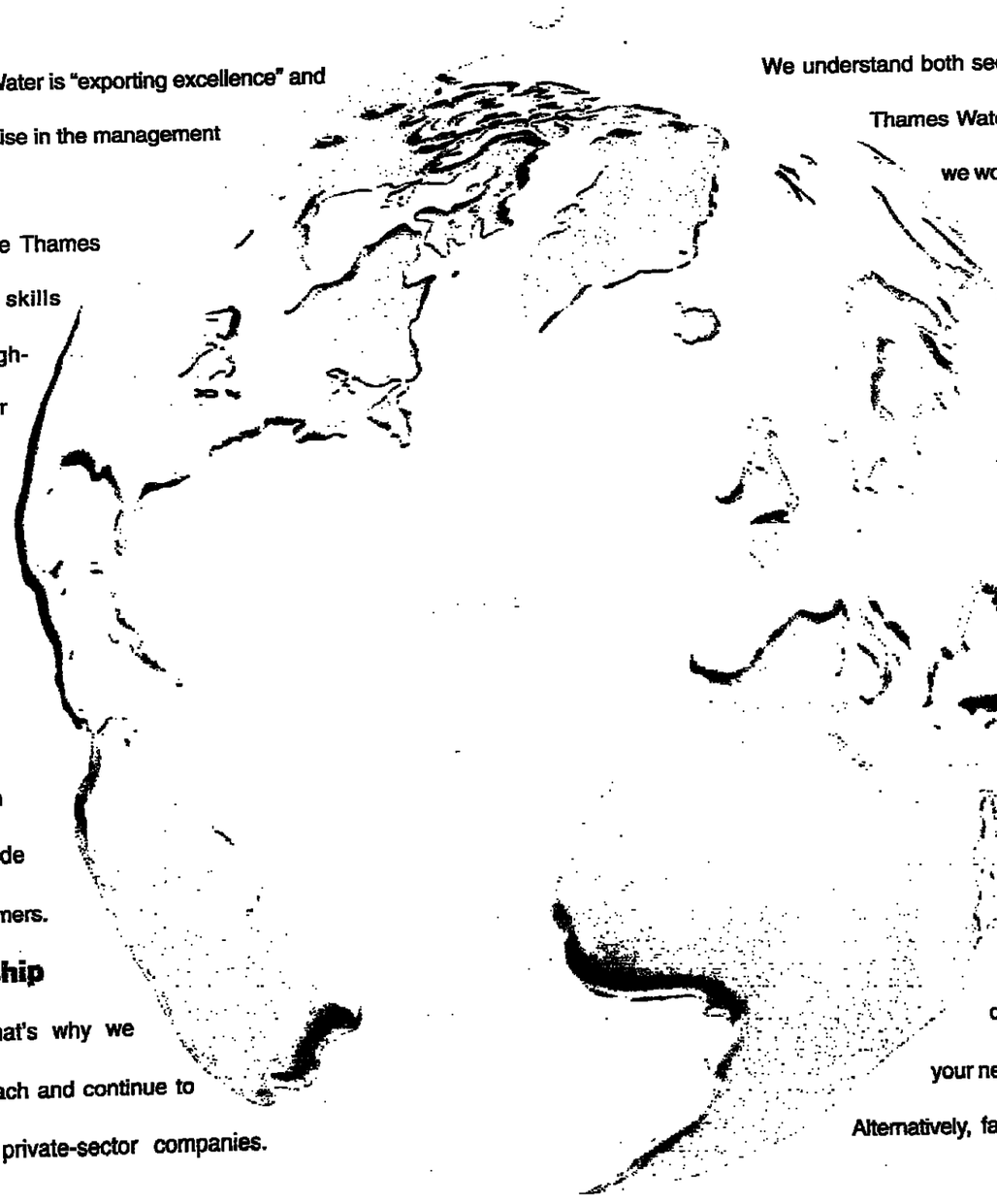
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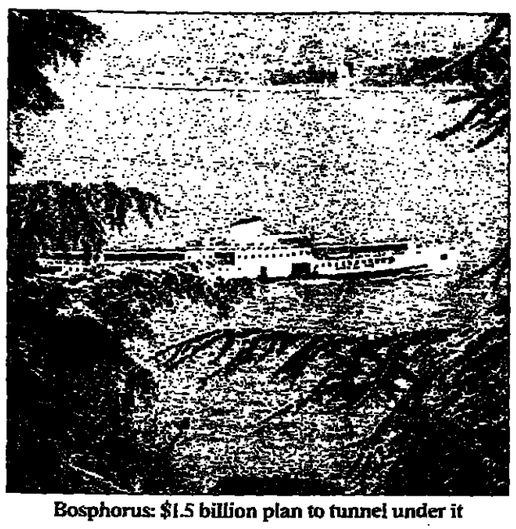
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Bridging loan wanted to dig a metro under the Bosphorus

ISTANBUL



Bosphorus: $1.5 billion plan to tunnel under it

Istanbul is everything the tourist posters claim — a modern metropolis with an uninterrupted urban tradition stretching back millennia. Less publicised is the fact that it continues to expand at the rate of a small city every year.

The municipality may be exaggerating but it estimates that Istanbul grows by 400,000 people every 12 months, largely the result of migration from the rest of the country.

The central government in Ankara has been reluctant to lose control of a city that generates 40 per cent of the nation's tax revenue and a similar proportion of GNP. Yet it is clearly impossible to administer a city of 12 million by remote control.

Getting it right in Istanbul means solving the very basic problems of water distribution and waste-water disposal, air and sea pollution — and transportation.

This is an observation that the city's inhabitants might care to reflect upon while stuck in traffic on the first Bosphorus bridge. The Galata bridge, which links Europe to Asia, has been adopted by the city as metaphor for Istanbul's own role in bridging East and West, cultures and traditions. In the planning literature, the bridge has acquired a different meaning. The suspension bridge and its arteries are a textbook case of roads generating the very traffic problems that they are meant to resolve.

Few bits of tensile steel can have so shaped the destiny of a city. It opened up the Asian side to development. What used to be a summer retreat of villages along the Asian shores of the Sea of Marmara, is now a single conurbation.

The bridge now carries more than four times the original number of cars it did when the British firm, Freeman Fox, completed it in 1973. This is despite the addition of a second bridge built in 1988. This second bridge was intended to carry the inter-city traffic and heavy vehicles banished from the first. Yet it inevitably opened up new areas for development and is now crowded with traffic.

The Government recently announced its intention to provide Istanbul with yet another bridge, next to the first. Plans are also well advanced to construct a huge suspension bridge across Izmit bay, bypassing the city of Izmit. Trafalgar House, a Japanese consortium and Enka, the Turkish construction giant, are reported to have won the $1.4 billion tender.

The proposal for a third Bosphorus bridge, however, has run into trouble. Public opinion will no longer accept as a solution something that simply makes it easier in the short term to bring cars into the city. A third bridge will also mean trampling over Istanbul's existing green spaces on the scenic Bosphorus hillsides.

Istanbul municipality is proposing — over the head of central Government — a tunnel under the Bosphorus that would allow a mass transit solution — a metro that would eventually feed into the line under construction from Taksim Square to the Levant residential sections on the European side of the city.

The Bosphorus is extremely deep, however, and construction poses special problems. These difficulties have been exaggerated, according to Huseyn Besli, adviser to the mayor. He says a tunnel could be built in under five years at a cost of $1.5 billion. Although this is substantially more than the cost of a bridge, there would be savings in the cost of feeder roads.

A project on that scale will require central approval. Local government in Turkey acquired greater financial autonomy under a major administrative reform in 1983, which created a system of local borough authorities under the umbrella of a Greater Istanbul Municipality. Cities also enjoyed the ability to go out to the international money markets, a facility that many used not wisely but too well.

The most formidable example of this was a former mayor of Ankara who convinced the international rating agencies that the capital deserved the same grade debt as the Turkish Treasury. He then went out to tap for $655 million on the international money markets, including $410 million in Samurai bonds.

However freely cities may spend, the cost has always been to the Treasury, which has guaranteed the debt, never the lenders, according to Solmaz Ayarslan, Professor of International Finance and adviser to the city. It is then up to central Government to decide how to recoup the cost.

Power plans spark revival

INFRASTRUCTURE

TURKEY'S creaking infrastructure is a drag on its high-growth economy. Power failures regularly black out industry, water shortages are endemic and potholed roads cause costly delays. So upgrading energy and transport is a priority.

The Government's low credit rating, a hangover from its financial crisis three years ago, makes funding from international capital markets difficult, although an American agency describes the outlook for Turkish debts as "stable", which should boost government hopes of raising the private investment it needs to fund its planned increase in power-generating capacity.

An obstacle to investment in Turkish building programmes was removed in July when legislation scotched legally based opposition to foreign companies building and operating such projects.

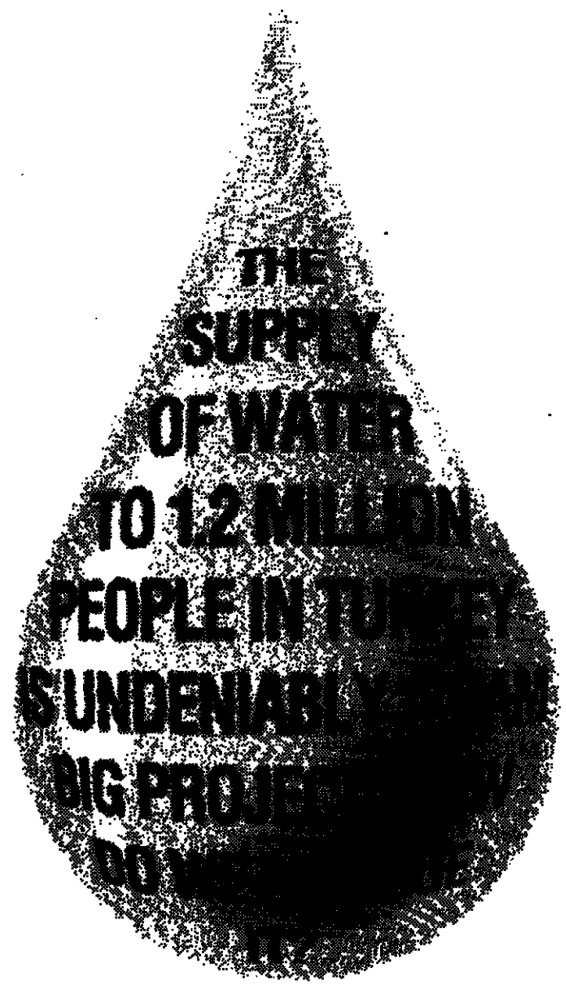
Foreign investors are attracted mainly to projects that offer a quick return and where risk is shared. Natural gas power plants offer the best prospects because they take only two years to build. Export credit agency loans are available, so risk is shared with the public sector. Most companies working on power-generation contracts are American. The UK is represented by National Power. Powergen and Rolls-Royce.

Six 700 megawatt power plants requiring investment of about $4.5 billion (£2.8 billion) have been earmarked for priority construction. All but one will be fuelled by natural gas, and the Government hopes to see the plants operating by 2000.

The financing of hydroelectric power plants is usually harder to sell to foreign investors because they take up to five years to build and their modest input content mostly precludes big support from export credit agencies. The Government still hopes to attract about $20 billion for the construction of hydroelectric plants, and it has made a start with a $311 million deal, to be signed early next month, towards building the Deriner hydroelectric dam in southeastern Turkey. The contractors, the Swedish-Swiss company Asea Brown Boveri, and Sulzer, of Switzerland, are putting up $106 million. The Swiss Export Credit Agency is raising $150 million and Warburg-SBC is lead-managing the loan of the remaining $55 million.

Foreign bankers mostly take an upbeat view of Turkey. The constitutional court's decision, after a decade of procrastination, to approve the privatisation of Turk Telekom, the profitable telephone monopoly, has been welcomed by the markets. Ali Dadressan, assistant director of investment banking at NatWest Markets, says: "Successful privatisation of TT will send investors a positive signal about the future."

DAVID RUDNICK



Taylor Woodrow was appointed by the construction consortium to manage all the construction work of the Izmit project, conceived by PWT Projects Ltd, a subsidiary of Thames Water.

A role that means co-ordinating the design, supply and construction interfaces between the contractors, producing detailed monthly project reports and planning, to ensure full visibility of progress on all construction activities. In doing so we act as the main line of communication between the construction consortium and Izmit Su, the joint venture company.

So when the water does finally flow from the dam, through the water treatment plant, pumping stations and pipeline systems, to the 1.2 million people in Turkey, we will raise a glass (of H2O naturally) and toast the skills of the consortium and our own management abilities, of course.

TAYLOR WOODROW

For further details please contact
Nigel Marks, Taylor Woodrow Construction Limited, Taywood House, 345 Ruislip Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2QX.
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INA Klöckner Industrie-Anlagen GmbH, Duisburg, handles through its French subsidiary - KLÖCKNER INA Installations Industrielles - some 160 m USD in supplies and services as part of the IZMIT Project. This portion is financed by a COFACE-covered buyer credits as well as commercial loans extended by French banks.

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- Environmental Technologies



Some current Projects

- Algeria - Pipeline System
- Canada - Pulp and Paper Mill
- China
  - Pulp and Paper Mill
  - Cold Rolling Mill
- Iran
  - S-PVC Plant
  - Pulp and Paper Mill
- Indonesia, Pulp and Paper Mill
- Malaysia - Pulp and Paper Mill
- Pakistan - Fertilizer Plant
- Poland - Flue Gas Desulphurization Plant
- Russia
  - Hot Briquetted Iron Plant
  - Plants for Building Materials
- Taiwan - Egg Shaped Sludge Digester

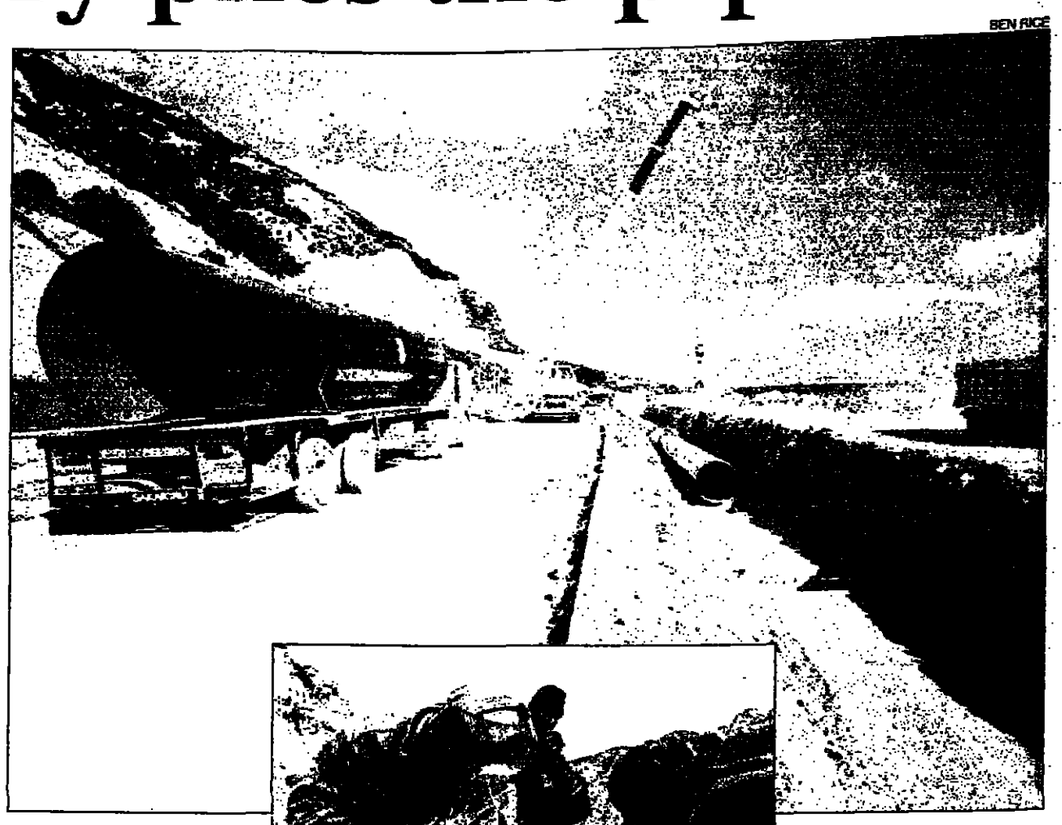
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How British industry plies the pipeline

More than 80 British engineering companies are involved in the Izmit project, supplying a range of products from pipeline fittings to flow meters and sludge-thickening machines



BEN RICE



Lorries and cranes deliver the pipes as welders lay the line

TRANSPORT

TRANSCAR Projects is handling a multimillion-dollar freight management contract with Izmit Su. With two decades of experience behind it, Transcar is challenging the domination of the German, Swiss and French in this field.

This type of highly specialised work involves planning and co-ordinating the transportation of materials and equipment around the world, so contractors keep on time and within budget. One cargo might be a 5,000-tonne steel structure, the next a 5kg valve.For the Izmit project, Transcar has shipped enough heavy steel piping to stretch for 60 miles.

"We are there at the manufacturer's plant as the pipes roll out," says John Salter, Transcar's managing director. "We supervise their transfer to the port, through the marshalling yards and on to specially chartered ships.

"In Turkey, we help with the clearance through Customs and then deliver the goods to the construction sites."

One often overlooked part of the service his company provides, says Mr Salter, is the advice given before the client even has a contract.

"This was the case with Thames and Izmit. We visited Turkey, carried out a survey of the local ports and facilities and compiled a report. This planning seems to have paid off, as everything is running to schedule and within budget.

"We hope that, as a result of our work on the Izmit project, more British companies will realise that there is a competent and established home-grown outfit available to transport their equipment."

FLOW METERS

A WORLD first has been achieved by ABB Kent-Taylor, based in Huntingdon, which has designed and built a system to verify the flow of water in underground pipes without any need to gain access to either the pipe or the sensor. The system is being used in the Izmit project as part of a £250,000 contract and is destined to make a major impact on the water industry worldwide.

Every day 480 megalitres of water will be processed through the Izmit treatment plant and pumped to 24 reservoirs for onward distribution.

Controlling flows — for example through the 20 filter beds — and ensuring accurate metering called for reliable flow meters of the highest order, and which could be routinely tested without having to be shut down, thereby cutting off supply.

These demands have been met by ABB Kent-Taylor's MagMaster electromagnetic flow meters, and by the recent CalMaster innovation. This allows flow meters in the underground chambers at Izmit to be tested from the surface via a laptop computer.

A total of 60 ABB Magmaster flow meters have been supplied for Izmit, ranging from massive tubes 1,600mm in diameter to tubes as small as 80mm.Most of the small to medium-sized meters will be used in the treatment plant to measure flows during chemical dosing and filtering. The large sizes will be used when the processed water is distributed onward.

To ensure a constant supply to those using the water, reservoirs must be kept at optimum levels. This means checking flow meters without even taking them off-line — something never achieved until ABB Kent-Taylor developed its unique solution.

The advent of the ABB CalMaster means there is no need to dig up buried flow meters or to interrupt water supplies.

A portable device, it can be used with a laptop computer to test a flow meter's performance from the surface, checking on the "health" of the whole metering system and giving early warning of any deterioration. It connects to a transmitter and downloads information on the meter's performance to a laptop computer. The person checking the system is then guided by a user-friendly Windows through a series of tests, after which the CalMaster evaluates the information. The whole procedure takes about 20 minutes.

Continued on next page

When Thames Water went to TURKEY, they needed someone who spoke their language.



Excellence. Commitment. Professionalism. Reliability. Uncompromising. Passion. These aren't just words to Thames Water. They're demands, that they make of themselves and their partners on every task they undertake anywhere.

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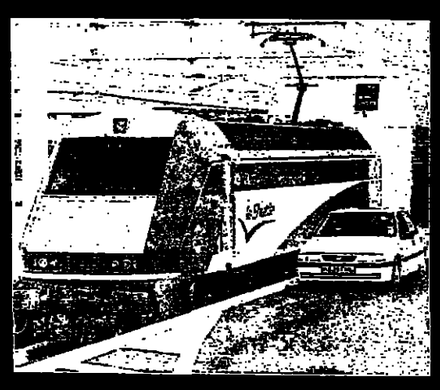
That's why they came to Transcar Projects Ltd.

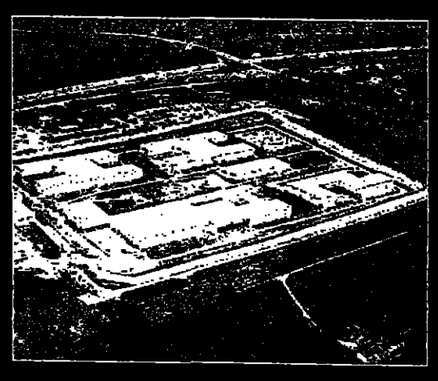
We're proud to have played our part on the Izmet project. They'll be talking about it for years.

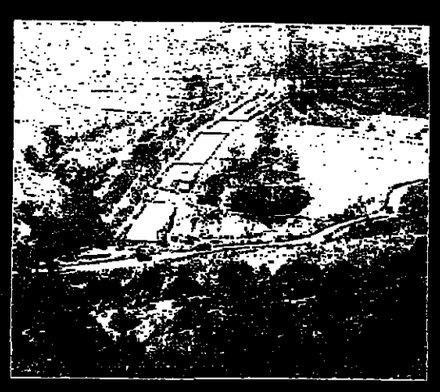
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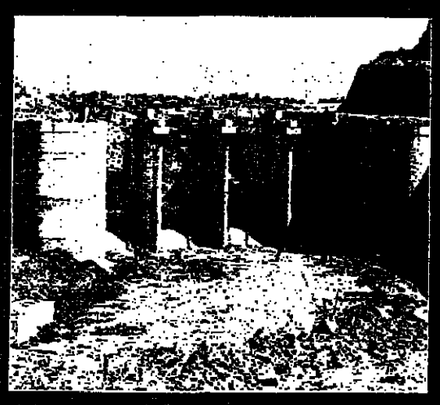
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WS Atkins has the financial and technical strength to play a key role in the development and implementation of privately financed projects and is the largest technologically based consultancy in the UK.

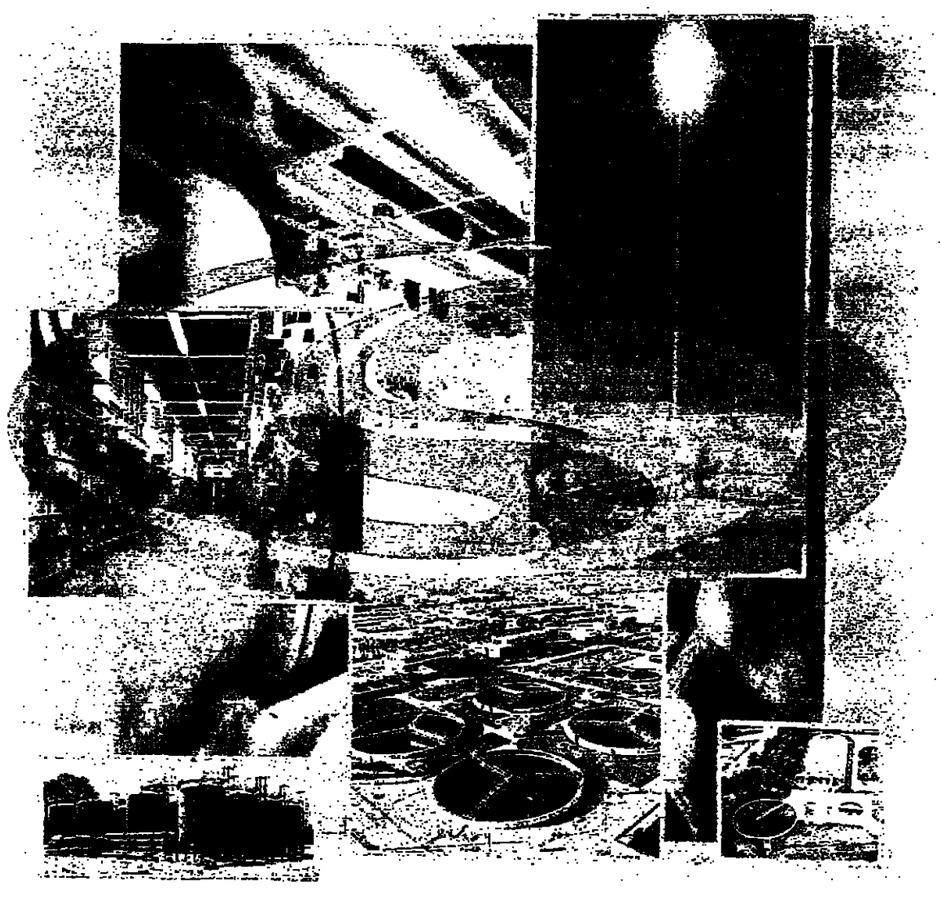
WS Atkins is playing a significant role in the engineering management of the Izmet project and its involvement in privately financed projects include:

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- *implementation strategies*
- *equity investment*
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هكذا من الاصل

to the tune of £215m



British consultants and engineers are working side by side with Turkish workers on the project using UK products

CORROSION CONTROL

THE 60 miles of buried pipeline at Izmit will be protected from corrosion by a $400,000 (£250,000) system designed and supplied by BAC Corrosion Control, a Cambridgeshire company.

Corrosion costs industry billions of pounds each year in damaged machinery, lost production, spilt products, environmental damage and dissatisfied customers. It is a particular problem in the water industry, where millions of gallons are lost through leaks.

Cathodic protection is a way of beating corrosion by passing an electric current across metal structures underground or underwater, to draw the rust away. BAC's cathodic system is based on 40 years of experience. For example, the company has recently been involved in protecting iron pipework in a Libyan reservoir and an irrigation system in Crete.

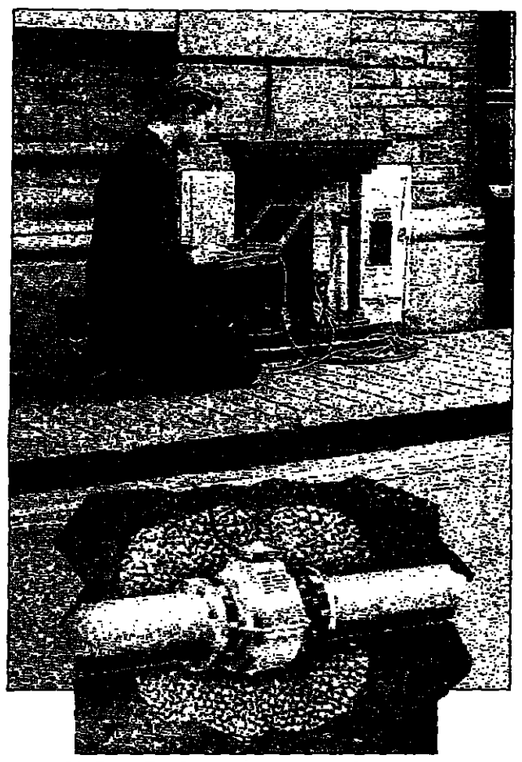
DISINFECTION

PORTACEL is supplying more than £200,000 in chlorination equipment to the Izmit water supply system, having won the contract in the face of stiff competition from overseas suppliers. The disinfection system includes specialised evaporators, chlorinators, controllers and safety equipment which has been constructed at the company's UK manufacturing facilities in Winchester, Hampshire, and Tonbridge, Kent.

The order included two Portacel Series 200E Liquid Chlorine Evaporators, each capable of providing 230kg/hr of gaseous chlorine. The amounts of disinfectant required reflect the size of the treatment plant and the water needed to satisfy the needs of the local area.

In view of the complexity of the Izmit scheme numerous changes had to be made to the plant design as the project developed.

"This is an important order for Portacel," says Dick Paige, the company's regional manager. "We will be supplying a complete turnkey package to Izmit. Everything, from the evaporators and residual analysers through to anchor bolts and air hoses, has been specified. Our computer design and production capacity allows us to produce a specification for a plant of this complexity by detailing every single item right down to the last washer."



An ABB Kent-Taylor engineer uses a laptop computer to verify the flow of water in pipes without excavations

PIPE FITTINGS

GRIPPA, a universal adaptor used for joining pipes of different material or diameter, was nominated as one of the first pieces of engineering equipment in the Millennium Product initiative launched earlier this month by Tony Blair.

Three thousand Grippa products are among the equipment, ranging from plastic stopvalves to pipe-drilling machinery, that is being supplied to the Izmit project by Talbot Pipeline Products as part of an order worth more than £370,000.

"Significant advances in health and safety, efficiency of service and maintenance of pipe installation will be made in Turkey as a result of the supply of Talbot equipment," says Sandy Maxwell, Talbot's general manager. "In particular, the drilling and tapping of mains water supplies can now be carried out under pressure without any risk of contamination to the supply, or of injury to the workforce."

Extensive training took place in Turkey to bring the local workforce up to a level of competence in line with the latest maintenance standards in Europe. Talbot worked in partnership with the engineers and installation staff in Izmit to ensure that polyethylene service pipes could be installed quickly from mains pipes of PVC, asbestos, cement or ductile iron.

Talbot, which is based in Winchester, is a leading manufacturer of plastic and metallic pipe fittings and accessories used extensively in the installation and maintenance of water supply systems. The company's products include drilling and tapping machines for mains water pipes, pipe connectors, stopvalves and metal boxes.

SLUDGE MACHINES

SLUDGE thickening and dewatering machinery and a comprehensive range of fluid control equipment with a total value of about £400,000 is being supplied to the Izmit project by Simon-Hartley, a company based in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and established in 1904.

Simon-Hartley equipment is installed in water and waste water treatment plants across the world and the company has pioneered many advances in the field of municipal and industrial water and effluent treatment.

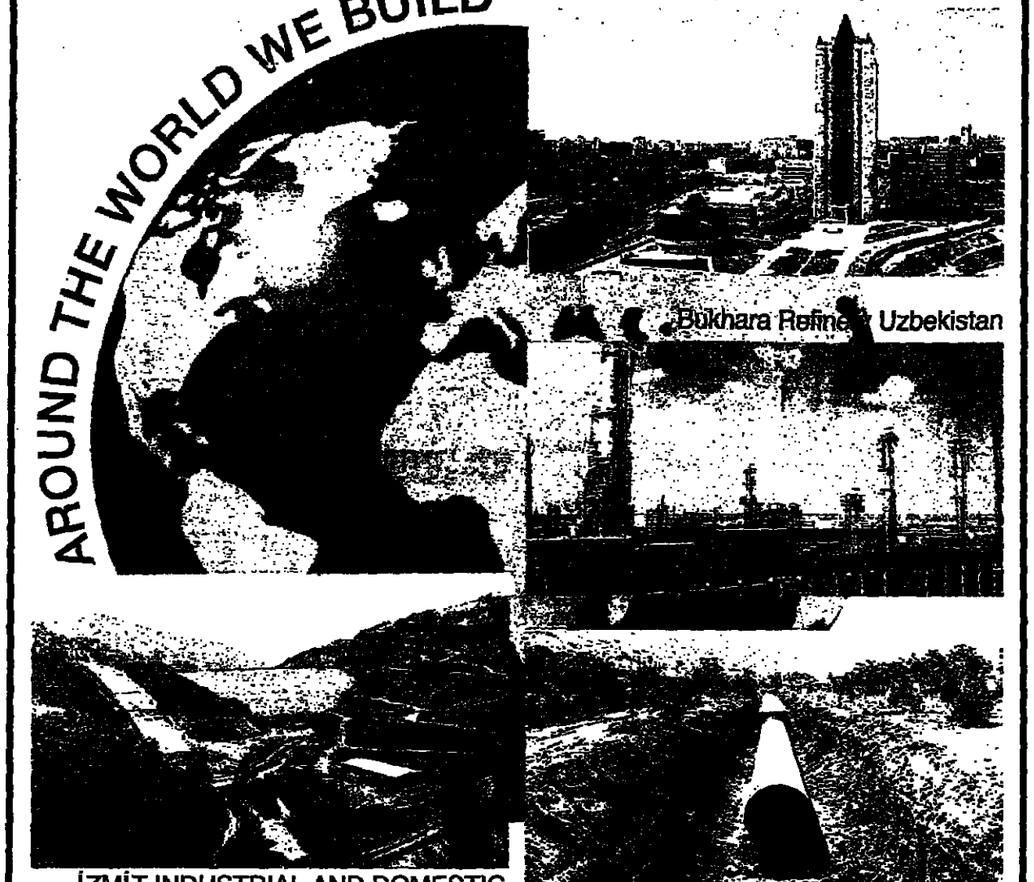
One of the major initiatives undertaken by the company over the past three years has been the re-engineering of their sludge thickeners and sludge dewatering equipment to produce equipment which provides the best whole-life costing available from any supplier in the field.

For the Izmit contract, Simon-Hartley is providing items ranging from penstocks in cast iron and Coplastix to stop logs in Coplastix. Penstocks, used to open or close against a head of water, control the flow of water at treatment works.

MOTOR CONTROL

BLACKBURN Starling, an electrical engineering company based in Nottingham, is responsible for the design, manufacture and testing of the 400-volt electrical motor control centres at the water treatment plant and the low voltage motor control centres at the pumping stations.

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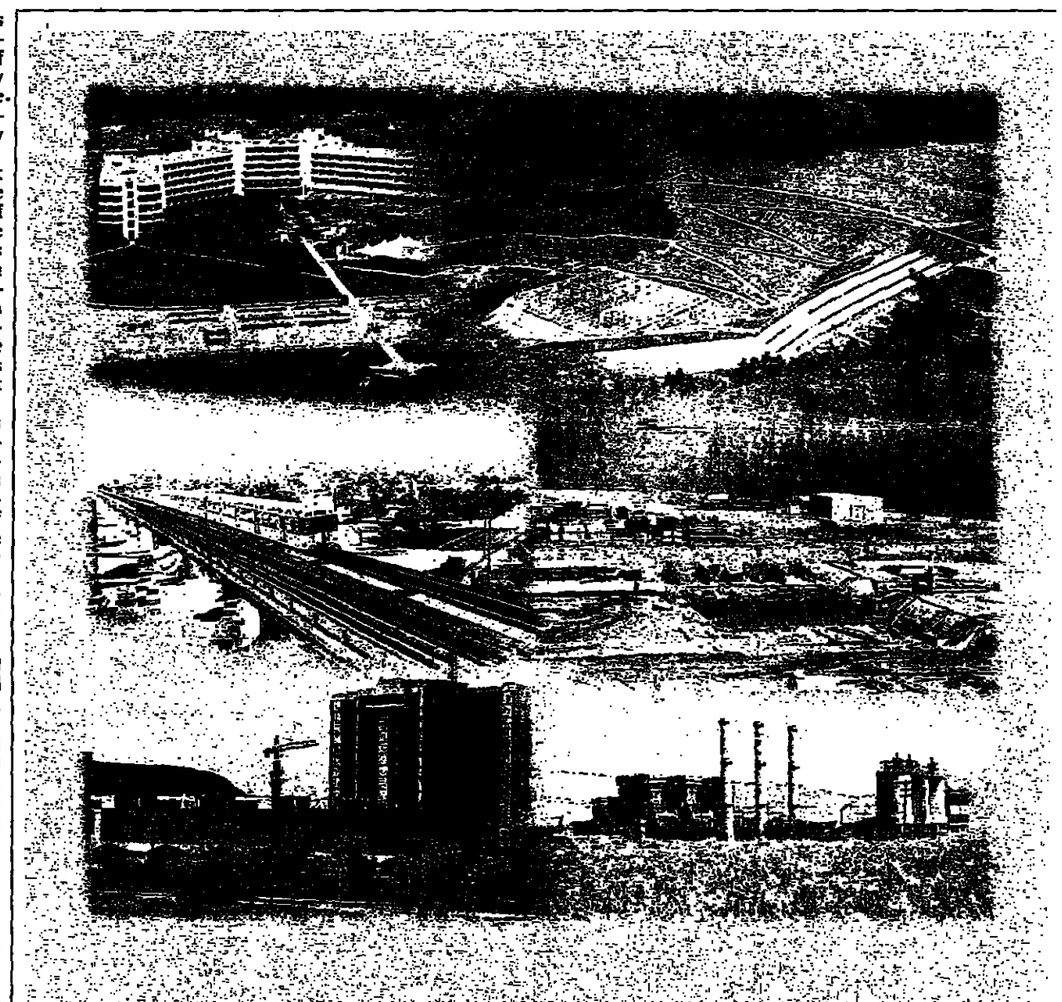
The Fuji Bank, Limited is pleased to provide support to the project as the Co-ordinator of the Export-Import Bank of Japan (JEXIM) and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on behalf of Thames Water as well as Co-Arranger and Senior Lead Manager of the senior loan and Agent of the Japanese Tranche of the financing. These roles included procuring the first involvement of Japanese ECA's for a Turkish project financing by way of an Overseas Investment Loan from JEXIM and Overseas United Loan Insurance from MITI.

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For more information please contact Soichi Yoshida, Mari Oi or Richard Silva at the Bank's European Headquarters on 0171 826 3454.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,038.80	Allied Domecq	484½	+ 6	5.6	14.5
717.80	Bulmer (HP)	412½	+ 5	4.4	13.5
20.70	Bass Strand	45	- 1½	9.4	11.2
132.60	Glenmorangie A	975	...	1.7	24.1
12,375.10	Grand Metr	588½	- 9	3.2	18.8
10,848.90	Guinness	572½	- 3½	3.4	15.6
383.50	Highland Dist	287½	- 5	3.7	13.5
214.60	Matthew Clark	242½	+ 5	12.4	7.7
6.43	Morgan WT	58	- 1½	8.6	14.6
5,157.70	SA Breweries	1750	- 12½	2.2	

BANKS

17,366.10	ABN-AMRO	1240½	- 28½	2.6	17.2
13,105.10	Abbey Nat†	934½	+ 39	3.7	15.3
4,038.20	Alliance & Lstr†	683½	+ 27½	2.9	16.2
4,644.20	Allied Irish	946	+ 36	3.5	15.6
7,896.40	Aus New Z	516½	+ 18½	3.6	...
57,554.20	Bank America	4663½	+ 7½		
6,341.30	Bank Scotland	518½	+ 66½	2.0	15.8
25,200.50	Barclays†	1664½	+149½	3.5	15.8
3,713.70	Bk of Ireland	780	+ 36	2.6	16.0
40,347.70	Citicorp	8337½	+ 9½		
6,912.80	Comerzbnk	1712½	+ 9½	2.8	
22,661.90	Dis Intl Nat Y	712½	+ 53½	0.6	...
21,025.80	Deutsche Bk	4305½	+ 550	1.5	...
508.50	Espirito Santo	1284½	+ 9½	2.9	...
26,454.60	Fuji Bank Y	706	+ 21	0.6	...
18,900.50	HSBC†	2165	+210½	2.7	17.5
37,191.80	HSBC HK†	20000½	+190	2.8	18.8
18,451.00	Halifax†	750½	+ 11	3.5	24.8
494.50	Irish Permt	575	+ 10	2.7	15.9
44,224.90	Lloyds TSB†	837½	+ 56½	2.2	23.9
15,060.50	Nat Aust Bk	1806	+ 37½	4.8	14.9
16,170.70	Nat West†	944	+ 70½	4.0	14.5
6,183.40	Rpl Bk Scot	719	+ 86½	3.4	15.5
8,730.70	Royal Charity	881	+ 46½	2.2	15.4
15,061.10	Wells Fargo	0164½	...	2.0	
7,018.60	Westpac	394	- 7½	3.8	
5,130.00	Woolwich†	320	- 3	3.1	18.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

7,384.30	Bass	932½	- 19	3.8	16.6
17.50	Bk for the Bis	54½	...	4.1	11.5
21.40	Berkeley Pen	151	- 1½	5.0	14.1
273.80	City Centre Rest	141	- 2	2.2	21.9
2,144.30	Compass Gp	860	+ 10	1.7	24.2
28.50	Belvoir P 'A'	278	- 3½	3.6	15.2
152.30	Enterprise Inns	790	- 7½	3.5	17.6
60.10	Fuller, Sm 'A'	432½	+ 15	2.9	15.1
1,166.50	Greenalls Gp	384½	- 57	6.0	9.8
425.30	Greene King	703	+ 15	3.4	15.1
25.30	Grosvenor Inns	187½	+ 23½	4.8	...
53.00	Hungry Chic Sar	307½		2.3	27.8
51.80	Hardy Hanse	258	- 6	5.3	11.5
77.60	Holt J	2575	...	3.8	14.8
50.20	Inn Business†	322½	- 6½	3.7	14.1
210.90	Mansfield	322½	- 6½	3.7	14.1
358.40	Morgan Thmp	385½	- 7½	3.5	9.9
164.90	Morland	909	+ 1½	3.2	13.1
59.40	Old Eng Pub	251½	- 6	1.0	12.4
3.00	Pizzaexpress	254½	3		
537.90	Pizzaexpress	812½	+ 92½	0.5	...
33.70	Ransomes (H)	362½	+ 2½	1.7	32.1
268.60	Regent Inns	301½	+ 9½	1.4	
67.70	SFI†	115	- 8	0.8	24.5
4,412.50	Scot & Newc	774	- 22	3.7	15.3
362.30	Vaux Group	254½	- 16	5.3	11.5
578.30	Wetherspoon JD†	1492½	- 32½	0.8	
3,964.30	Whitbread	807	+ 8½	1.7	14.9
361.40	Workingtn D	319	- 39½	4.2	11.3
2,202.50	Yates Rest	368½	+ 1	1.0	29.5
19.90	Young 'A'	667½	- 10	2.8	27.0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

4.16	AAF Ind	18	...		
79.40	Abbey†	985	...	3.1	...
149.30	Allen	359½	...	2.6	21.5
211.30	Amec	152	- 1½	3.5	...
1,139.50	Amec†	440	+ 3	2.8	16.3
89.50	Andrew, Sykes	605	+ 2½	3.1	17.9
438.50	Ashtead†	311½	+ 5	1.5	21.5
18.20	Ashtenkill	42	...	4.5	9.7
42.20	Bandt	30	+ ½	4.5	26.2
32.80	Bacon	59½	+ 1	2.7	18.3
606.70	Barratt Devs	262½	+ 1½	4.4	13.8
514.20	Beazer	183	+ ½	3.8	11.4
382.20	Bellway	375	+ 13½	2.8	16.7
9.25	Bellwinch	204	+ 3		8.4
5.30	Ben Bailey	90½	+ 9½	4.0	7.1
752.00	Berkeley Gp	746	+ 4½	1.6	15.5
21.40	Bett Bros	142½		4.2	6.8
56.50	Bovis (Henry)	357½	+ 2½	2.8	14.4
27.60	Brandon Hirst	122½	+ 3	3.0	16.4
7.87	Britannia Gp	34½	- ½	3.3	8.5
8.12	Br Bldg & Eng	72½			2.0
344.10	Bryant†	122	+ ½	5.2	13.1
45.50	CALA	105½		4.5	
4.16	Campbell & Arm	4	- ¼		
10.60	Clarke T	86½	+ 3	7.6	10.2
95.30	Crabtree†	46	...		
71.90	Countryside	94	...	3.3	14.5
103.00	Crest Nicholson†	1024½	- ½	3.6	12.7
17.00	Cussons	95½	- 3	3.6	9.3
16.00	Ew Group	163	- 1	3.5	19.2
18.60	Galliford	21		6.0	21.0
90.80	Gleeson (MJ)	91½		2.2	16.6
75.50	Hardy& Gwyn	272½	- 2½	3.1	17.5
501.60	Hender-Smart	189½	+ 9	2.4	24.0
5.02	Howard Hldgs	19	+ 1	5.5	
256.80	Jarvis	277½	+ 6	1.9	22.8
129.60	Mallett	231½	+ 13	2.6	16.1
64.00	Mar	350	- 1	2.9	17.5
174.20	Laing (J)	379		3.3	31.6
80.80	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	126½	- ½	8.5	
4.68	Lovell (YJ)	114	- ½		
46.60	Maunders (J)	185½		3.8	13.6
168.30	McAlpine (A)	139½	+ 1½	3.5	18.5
133.70	McCarthy & S	134		2.2	16.0
16.30	Mckenny	65			
54.30	Morgan Sindall†	162½	- 10	3.5	11.8
203.00	Morrison Cons	302½	+ 5	2.1	19.1
185.70	Mowlem (J)	165	+ 1	3.2	18.1
403.40	Persimmon†	727	- 5	5.3	11.6
16.90	Peterhouse†	102½	+ 2½	4.8	23.1
20.80	Pictura	100	...	3.1	10.4
86.70	Prowting	111	...	4.5	16.2
376.70	Redland	347		3.1	14.7
38.60	Shirall Hldgs	345		2.6	29.5
38.30	Spandex	262½	+ 5	1.9	14.7
60.90	Swan Hill	88	+ 1½	3.7	
43.30	Tay Homes	145	- ½	6.5	31.4
735.10	Taylor Woodrow†	185½	+ 7½	2.4	14.3
212.10	Tilbury Douglas	627½	+ 30	4.7	15.5
16.30	Try Group	23½	-		11.3
32.00	Vibroplant	71		7.1	
84.60	Wardpeake	135	½	4.4	19.0
26.00	Ward Hldgs†	49½	+ 2		
230.30	Westbury	255		3.3	14.7
12.10	White Young Grn	62½	- 3	7.2	9.4
70.10	Wiggins	10	- ½		
328.60	Wilson (Con)	166½	+ 1½	3.7	16.8
511.50	Wilson Bowden	548½		3.5	14.3
437.50	Wimpey (G)	129	- 2½	5.7	12.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

546.00	Aggregate Indst	549½	+ 1	4.6	24.3
1,754.10	BPB	341	- 5½	3.8	15.1
40.00	Baggeridge Br	97½	+ 1	4.0	24.6
15.80	Blacks	63½	+12½		
3,027.60	Blue Circle†	400½	+ 15	4.0	16.8
28.40	Brandon PLC	180	+ 17½	6.6	13.4
25.60	Br Dredging	146½		5.0	12.0
2,646.40	CRH	1873½	+ 19½	1.5	17.1
2.67	Caledonian Royl	44½	+ 1½	6.7	4.4
16.50	Cape	112½	+ 5½	4.0	12.3
1,053.90	Carlsberg†	196	+ 9½	5.1	19.9
190.60	Cavendish pl	106	+ 2	9.5	
5.80	Chilcton Gpt	67½		6.3	8.7
3.98	Ibson (USA)	240		10.0	
19.30	Dyson 'A'	140	- 1	5.1	8.1
15.90	Ecclstone	3	...		
47.90	Epwin	218½		5.3	13.3
1.56	Gibbs & Dandy†	97½		5.3	9.8
199.30	Galliford Gp	149½	- ½	5.2	19.9
63.70	Halstead (J)	237½	+ 2½	5.7	9.5
1,943.30	Hanson†	298½	+ ½	5.0	11.8
525.30	Hepworth	213½	+ 3½	8.7	12.1
19.30	Hewetsons	99	+ 4	4.0	10.1
192.30	Heywd Wmsn	211½	- 2	8.2	8.7
362.30	Ibstock	96½	+ 3	4.5	21.0
34.80	Johnston	325		4.6	9.8
21.00	Lilleshall†	24	+ ½	8.3	9.5
386.40	Marley†	112½	+ 5½	5.1	11.9
173.20	Marshalls†	138	- 1½	4.7	21.2
543.80	Meyer Int	439½	- ½	3.5	18.3
113.80	Norcros	75	- ½	4.5	15.9
1,586.90	Pilkington	153	+ 3	4.1	18.1
363.10	Polypipe	218	- 2	1.9	16.0
2,564.10	RMC Gp	1060	+ 10	3.2	13.6
1,163.20	Redland	323	- 5½	5.6	11.1
24.50	Ryrfield	135½		4.4	16.3
40.70	Safeland	64½		3.6	21.4
787.30	Rugby Group	122	+ 7½	3.9	23.6
24.40	Ryland (A)	102	+ 2	5.2	14.7
367.60	SIG	312	- 2	3.8	15.8
5.33	SWP	24½	+ ½		
59.50	Sharpe & Fisher	227½		3.3	14.7
47.60	Spring Ram	105½	- ½		
113.50	Steetley Hldgs	183	+ 1	5.9	11.8
1,239.20	Tarmac	133½	+ 9	5.3	16.4
564.80	Pearl Perkins	534	+ 8½	2.4	18.6
6.60	Tudor	569½	+ 13½	2.6	16.7
2,685.30	Wellaway	569½	+ 13½	2.6	16.7

DISTRIBUTORS

80.60	Aston Cp Sds	187½	+ 7	0.7	21.5
16.70	Adam & Harvey	387½		7.0	5.7
4.03	Alexanders	10	- ½	1.2	
44.00	Appleyard†	66		6.8	
5.25	Ass St Eng	8			
158.90	BSS Group	590	...	4.3	18.5
5.36	Bearing Power	15		3.0	7.4
2.17	Bogod 'A'	37½		3.9	
288.50	Bunzl†	622½	+ 12½	3.3	16.0
7.80	Bridgend Gp	18	+ 2½	13	8.9
26.80	Brit Polyps	113½		4.7	11.3
17.10	Caltyre	335		4.7	31.3

ELECTRICITY

3,264.50	Br Energy	332½	+ 20	5.3	62.5
1,388.30	Energy Group	846½	+ 7	4.1	11.7
4,756.10	National Grid†	277	- 3½	5.0	11.4
6,780.30	National Pwr	558½	+ 14	5.6	10.8
676.50	Nthn Ireland†	481½	+ 21½	5.4	27.9
4,964.60	PowerGen	774	+ 9½	4.1	12.5
1,800.30	Hydro-Electr	461½	+ 25½	4.8	11.9
5,335.00	Scottish Power†	452½	+ 3½	5.1	11.9
2,236.00	Southern Elect	465½	+ 18	5.8	12.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

76.30	Acal	379½	- 2	3.1	12.7
134.50	Acorn	147½	...		
316.00	Admiralt†	500	+ 5	0.6	32.6
26.80	Arbin	36	- ½	1.8	15.0
390.50	Autect	177½	+ ½	1.8	15.0
197.00	Avdel	555		9.9	17.7
867.30	BICC	139	+ 12	10.1	14.4
9.30	Bailey, Hunter†	87½	...	15.3	
31.20	Bateson	41	- 2	0.6	19.4
79.00	Bick	255	+ 20	6.9	7.4
804.00	Bowthorpe	412½	+ 19½	3.2	16.4
3.30	Bulgin A	12½	- ½	7.5	15.1
23.80	Chil Micro	150	+ 12½	5.1	19.3
31.50	Channel Hldgs	34½	+ ½	8.0	11.8
98.00	Chloride	387	+ 2½	2.3	19.1
14.50	Clayhithe	71	+ 1½	6.1	8.7
112.50	Critchley	697½	+ 37½	2.2	19.3
1,500.20	Danka Bs Sys	660	- 37½	0.5	25.7
536.10	Delta†	351	- 28	5.4	12.5
65.50	Domino	334	- 2	4.2	14.5
110.50	Dowding Mills	72½	- 3½	4.7	
80.30	Druck†	257½	- 5	0.8	37.3
3,319.10	Electrocm 'B'	4558½	-121½	2.2	22.7
21.90	Emess	20½		2.4	13.7
25,432.40	Ericsson 'B'	2980½	+121½	0.7	
15.60	Eurocopy	31½		10.7	4.8
361.30	Eurotherm	387½	+ 7½	2.9	15.9
821.90	Fairey Group	621	+ 29½	1.7	18.7
202.70	Filtronic Comm†	439½	+ 22	0.3	70.7
5.80	Forward Tech	30		7.0	
10,913.30	GEC†	392	+ 4½	4.2	21.4
134.40	Gooding	206		4.0	17.4
35.80	Ind Control	65	- 81	3.9	
5.87	Intelekt	14		8.0	52.0
8.50	Kode	1005½	+ 2	3.1	47.4
6.66	LPA Ind	61½	+ 2½	4.2	17.4
114.20	Marwtr-Sirt	120	- 86	3.8	11.0
11.80	Microvitec	15	+ 1½	7.3	
449.80	Misys	425			
59.70	Nthorn Tech	157½	- 1	0.8	
416	Oxford Instr	416	+ 3½	2.3	13.4
116.80	Pace Micro	54½	- 5½	6.4	9.3
46.50	Psdt	38	+ 4½	8.9	11.8
16,753.80	Philips Lmp nv	4850	+353½	1.0	
7.85	Plasmon	163½	+ 4	9.8	
7.32	Plasmon	39½	+ 3½	3.7	
129.60	Pressac	258½	+ 1	1.9	20.7
15.10	Prostrkk	37	- 1	2.7	8.6
334.70	Psion†	477½	+ 10	0.6	37.0
727.80	Racal Elect	225	+ 11	2.2	18.0
20.00	Redwood	107½	+ 1½	3.5	17.4
256.30	Renishaw	352½	+ 46	3.1	
5.00	Redtone	2			
116.10	Rotronic	208½	+ 3½	4.1	13.8
65.00	SDC Bus Sys	132		3.8	12.5
32.30	Servomex	314	- 3½	3.4	17.4
48.30	Silvermarch	57½	+ 2	3.0	15.8
7,380.40	TDK	5500½	+119½	0.5	
16.50	TSI	75½	- ½	5.8	9.0
205.20	TLG	112½	+ 6	4.8	14.0
5.15	Tadpole Tech	10	- ½		
65.30	Telerecrds	71	+ 3½	2.8	30.7
72.00	Telspec	232½	- 3½		
17.40	Thorn Em	135	+ ½	3.9	11.4
9.11	Total Systems	107½	- 1	2.8	21.9
23.80	Tunstall	72	+ 1	9.0	5.0
157.60	Vinny	59	+ ½	0.2	
61.60	Vinny	102½	+ 3	7.1	8.1
70.20	Vision Technology	142½			
142.10	Vitec†	307½	+ 20	5.2	14.8
2.38	Wolfenbourne	10½			

ENGINEERING

65.70	ABH	450	- 10	2.5	14.7
52.10	ASW	385	+ 10		
119.90	Alumasc†	297½	+ 8½	3.6	11.8
80.70	Altis	141	+ 7	2.9	25.3
63.40	Ash & Lacy†	168½	+ 1	5.5	8.3
50.20	Ayrshire Metal	105½		6.7	6.5
1,753.90	BBA†	283	- 2	2.0	21.2
38.50	BHP	80½	- ½	10.4	6.6
162.50	Babcock	95	+ 4	1.6	
4.54	Bailey (GH)	61			5.9
167.40	Barnes (Clarke)	161½	- 3½	3.7	17.7
13.70	Beales	29½	- ½	3.4	13.6
14.90	Benson Group	43½		4.3	10.3
263.40	Bertelsmn Int	172½	+ 17	3.6	24.1
970.00	Bodycote	307½	+ 12½	1.7	23.9
3.64	Booth Indc	45			
15.50	Bramley†	19½	+ ½	5.8	7.3
121.40	Brdlee	174		3.2	15.6
167.40	Bryan Donkin	182½		4.4	16.7
3,645.90	Br Aerospace†	1827½	+ 22½	3.3	9.5
3,542.20	Bulls-Royce	239½	+ 6	2.9	16.3
274.10	Rotork†	312½	+ 19½	3.4	22.2
107.40	Rustron	122½	+ 7½	6.7	
1,196.60	GKN†	1816½	+ 37½	2.4	
595.50	Spirax Sarg	705	+ 9	2.5	20.0
94.20	Smiths Ind	478	+ 7½	1.9	20.9

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

127.40	Arlecdon	153½	+ 22	6.4	12.4
14.70	Arthur Sheers	172½		5.8	11.0
188.90	Avon Rubber	620	+ 15	4.0	12.9
50.10	Bosroon	295	+ 11	3.0	14.6
378.20	Britax	127½	+ 6	3.4	16.5
131.10	Fins Tecnr	930		1.6	21.8
5,025.00	GKN	1419½	+123½	2.2	
29,387.40	General Mt	4137½	+604½	1.2	
201.60	Hardys†	379	- 20	5.1	9.1
21,386.30	Honda Motor	2196½	+ 97	0.3	
670.50	Lond	471½	+ 20	3.3	12.8
3,419.50	Lucas Varity	242	+ 10½	2.7	18.5
1,296.50	M & Nt	464.80	+ 3	3.6	10.4
5.04	Load	20	+ 2½		
184.90	Trinity Hldgs	284½	+ 14	3.8	14.3

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

4,823.00	AB Food	547	- 3½	2.2	18.2
123.60	Acatos & Hutch	795½		4.4	24.9
266.40	Albert Fisher	37	+ 1½	12.7	8.8
26.90	Banks (S Cl)	269	+ 2½	5.0	10.3
66.30	Bar (AG)	401	+ 5	3.0	16.8
16.00	Bessnes Chqrf	31½	- ½	4.5	7.8
796.60	Booker	324½	+ 30½	8.5	
35.80	Bortbeck	61½		2.6	39.2
14.00	CPL Arenas	109½	- 18½	5.6	28.5
5,806.60	Cadbury-Schwpps	1275½	+ 14	3.5	15.4
26.70	Cains Milling	321½	+ 1½	3.3	42.9
41.30	Carsphairn	61½	- 3	7.5	11.4
34.70	Cranswick	342½		6.3	12.4
303.00	Dairy Crest Group	374	+ 12½	4.6	12.2
788.00	Dalgety	2265	- 2½	6.4	
28.00	Daniels St	40	+ ½	1.1	
615.30	Devro	386½	+ ½	2.9	17.2
118.60	Finlay (James)	118½	- 1	3.8	21.4
261.70	Geest	360	+ 12½	3.1	16.7
29.20	Global	244	+ 15½	3.6	15.5
544.70	Greencore	290	- 19	2.9	12.6
347.70	Hazlewood Fds†	149½	+ 12	5.6	11.5
1,193.30	Hillsdown	168	+ 7	7.5	10.4
21.10	HJ Group	14	+ 1½	11.6	11.1
78.00	Linton Park	385		5.1	8.3
132.60	Mailtrees (G)	105½	+ ½	5.0	17.0
79.20	Nichols (V)	208½	+ 3½	4.4	11.7
1,432.00	Nthn Foods†	246	+ 14½	4.8	19.4
8.52	Nutrimins Fd	19½		1.3	8.8
15.70	Parliament Foods†	65		7.3	9.7
1.36	Pasion's	48½	- ½		8.6
143.90	Perkins Foods†	93½		5.6	10.1
36.60	Plant & Gen	114½	- 7	1.7	
7.01	Quality Farm	93½	- 19	6.8	8.7
11.00	Sims Food	32			3.5
1,995.70	Tate & Lyle	428½	+ 18	4.8	13.8
13.50	Tealtt	134	- 2	5.2	38.9
1,265.10	Unigate	585½	+ 29½	4.9	14.2
14,723.00	Unilever	10855½	+ 47½	2.2	22.0
21,162.00	Unilever (NV)	8131½	+ 25	1.7	16.3
1,073.70	Utd Biscuits†	202½	+ 8	6.2	15.7
29.80	Wt Foods	37	+ 1	5.1	15.1
4.67	Yorkshire Food	10½	+ ½	10.5	

HEALTHCARE

1,262.40	Amersham	2132½	- 37½	1.3	32.2
21.90	Assoc Nursg	133½	- 5	3.5	16.6
453.70	Bespak†	605	+ 17½	2.5	20.6
431.10	Biocompos Int	585	- 7½		
162.00	Bio Sensor	193	- 3½	5.2	
54.20	Care UK	118		11.9	
97.90	Celsis	104	+ 8		
140.70	Cmplmnty H	412½	+ 3	3.6	
51.20	CrestaCare	77	+ ½	4.5	12.8
2.50	Enermed	250			
13.00	Fermetic Group	120	- 7½	3.1	11.8
74.70	Goldshrough	170½		3.2	15.7
68.70	Hamligh Tec	140	- 1	2.7	17.5
78.60	Innovative Tech	213½	- 21½		
20.00	Interactv Gp	27½		6.1	11.5
52.30	Isotrol	415	- 10	1.9	
588.20	Lon Int	1705½	+ 6½	2.1	23.4
119.00	Medar Hithr	155½	+ ½	2.9	20.3
0.46	Premier Health	6			
203.50	Scholl†	291½	+ 2½	3.4	18.3
263.40	Sellan Health	456½	+ 24	2.4	16.6
130.50	Shield Diag	692½	- 7½		
2,108.40	Smith & Neph	1699½	+ 3½	3.8	17.8
19.30	Tomatis	2½		4.1	10.4
482.90	UniChem†	275½	+ 7½	4.1	21.2
161.70	West Hillcarrt	285½	+ 10	2.9	16.7

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

58.90	Ainsworth	295½	- 1	3.4	13.4
85.50	Allen	196½	+ 2½	3.9	12.8
8.62	Armour	23		5.6	20.8
11.10	BLP Group	168½	+ 6	4.5	6.3
4.14	Blsdon Bdcast	46½	- 3½	4.8	24.1
23.10	Black Arrow†	87½	- 2½	2.2	18.0
199.20	Black (Peter)†	385	+ 2½	2.2	18.0
65.20	Cresnell Pdt Sp	163½		10	18.5
4.66	Creigtons W	23½	- 2		
14.90	Dalgety†	134½	+ 22	6.8	
64.50	Derby Group	162½	+ 1	3.7	12.5
52.50	Eclipse Blinds†	126½		3.2	12.3
4.45	Elliot	35	+ 3	4.4	6.4
14.90	Ecclestt	305	- 11	2.3	10.3
200.60	HPP Hld	265	- 9	2.1	12.7
8.90	Hardware (T)	53	- 2	3.8	
56.90	Kenwood App	124	- 2½	3.3	49.4
9.45	Lionheart†	11	- ½	3.1	22.6
281.50	McBride	166½	- 3½	5.4	
41.30	Mayborn	170½		6.8	9.3
36.20	Osborne & Little	125½		4.0	13.0
106.90	Paterson Zoch	438	- ½	4.6	10.2
85.10	Paterson Zoch 'A'	370	- 3½	6.4	9.2
21.20	Pittard	209½	+ 1	3.6	11.5
14.00	Reckitt 'A' Vtg†	1375		2.7	
3,960.10	Reckitt Colmn	973	+ 4	2.7	17.5
99.80	Rotary†	460		3.1	17.9
113.60	Royal Doulton†	205½		5.9	11.5
143.50	Rutnright	307½		4.1	14.2
12.90	Sherlock	155½		4.8	12.7
55.20	Stewart	255½		2.8	18.4
26.90	Smithsonite	240½	+ 6½	4.0	12.7
10.40	Tomkinsons	165	- 9	9.0	10.0
5.54	Vidrala	120	- 2	3.8	10.7
61.00	Waller Greenhk	91	+ ½	9.1	10.8
582.30	Wilkins Yidgwd	80	- 3	2.1	21.7
4.70	Wood (Arthur)	235		3.6	15.9

INSURANCE

8,615.70	Am Gen	3231½	- 103½	2.7	
123.10	Angerstein†	199½		12.8	
52.20	Braddock	81½		9.8	13.0
1,864.40	Britannic	962	+ 28½	4.3	13.6
1,099.10	Brit Aviat	715		5.6	11.0
5,395.40	Com Union†	1796½	+ 23	4.6	12.9
227.20	Cox Insrn	215½	+	1.6	13.1
164.50	Dom & Gen	2425		2.5	18.9
1,250.00	ERY	2675	- 8½	2.0	39.7
38.70	Fleetwy Underr	152	+ 1	11.8	
5,222.20	Gen Accident	1060	+119½	4.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Ascot Holdings, Bilton, Capital & Regional Properties, Gander Holdings, Maiden Group, Oasis Stores, Pascoe's Group, Pilat Technologies, Salehurst. **Finals:** Brunel Holdings, Close Brothers, McKechnie, Northern Leisure, Ricardo Group, Semple Cochrane. **Economic statistics:** UK net new consumer credit (August), UK final M4 money supply (August), UK provisional M0 money supply (September), US consumer spending and personal income (August), US Treasury auction of short-term t-bills, US Treasury quarterly borrowing needs.

TOMORROW

Interims: Barbican Healthcare Group, Delphi Group, Exploration Co, Hampden Group, Hepworth, Intermediate Capital, Lamont Holdings, QS Holdings, Ruberoid, TDS Circuits, Watts Blake Bearne, United Energy, Yule Catto & Co. **Finals:** Allied London Properties, Charterhouse Communications, Cornwell Parker, S Lyles, Manchester United. **Economic statistics:** Bank of England quarterly refunding announcement, US Treasury announces size of short-term t-bills, US Federal Open Market Committee meeting, US new home sales (August), LJR Redbook retail sales weekly survey, API weekly oil supply statistics, French unemployment (August).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Austin Reed, Bank of Scotland, Brooks Service Group, Chiroscience Group, Johnston Group. **Finals:** Baillie Gifford Japan, Druid Group, FW Thorpe. **Economic statistics:** UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply manufacturing sector purchasing managers index (September), US National Association of Purchasing Managers survey (September).

THURSDAY

Interims: Clubhaus, Martin International Holdings, Rugby Estates, United Assurance Group. **Finals:** Burn Stewart, Galliford. **Economic statistics:** UK new construction orders (August), UK official reserves (September).

FRIDAY

Interims: Radamec Group. **Finals:** none scheduled. **Economic statistics:** UK housing starts (August), UK Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply services sector PMI (September), US employment data.

COMPANIES

Man Utd to score with investors



The City would like Bank of Scotland to say who will succeed Sir Bruce Pattullo as governor

MANCHESTER UNITED: Expectations are as high on the financial field as on the football pitch for Manchester United, which reports year-end figures tomorrow. Top-end forecasts are for profits before tax and transfer fees to jump from £14.5 million to about £27 million.

Fuelling the jump will be healthy television revenues boosted by the football team's performance in the European Champions League. In addition, gate receipts and merchandising income are expected to show strong growth. Earnings are forecast to leap to 30p compared with 17p last time with the dividend up from 5.2p to 6p.

BANK OF SCOTLAND: Half-year figures are due on Wednesday, with analysts ranging from cautious to bullish. At the lower end pre-tax profits are forecast to rise 10 per cent to £357 million, while analysts at Lehman Brothers are pencilling in a 14 per cent increase to £370 million. At this level earnings would rise from 15p to 17.5p, with the dividend ahead to 3.4p.

Brokers expect growth to come from the parent company and NWS, the susbidiary that provides loans and asset finance for businesses. BankWest, the Australian subsidiary, continues to be squeezed by the competitive mortgage market.

The results will also provide a better idea of how well the bank's partnership with J Sainsbury is progressing, since the launch earlier this year of Sainsbury's Bank, a joint venture.

Expectation has been growing that the group will also announce a successor to Sir Bruce Pattullo as governor. He was in the headlines recently for his stance against Scottish devolution. City speculation has tipped Sir Alistair Grant, former chairman of Safeway and current chairman of Scottish & Newcastle, as the leading contender. A spokesman for the bank, however, said last week that news on the succession was unlikely.

HEPWORTH: Encouraging news will be sought from the new management team at Hepworth, the building products and heating group, when it reports first-half figures on Tuesday.

The group has a sizeable exposure to European markets and has already given warning of the effect of the strong pound on overseas earnings, which it said could cut profits by £8 million to £9 million.

On a brighter note better news is expected from the UK, reflecting the pick-up in the housing and construction markets. Half-year profits are forecast to be down by about a third to £22 million with the dividend held at 5.5p.

NORTHERN LEISURE: A run of strongly performing acquisitions should help the group shimmy stylishly ahead when its reports year-end figures today.

The dance club group is expected to announce pre-tax profits up from £5.51 million to £8.5 million at top-of-the-range estimates. The dividend is pencilled in at 5.25p, against 4.25p last time. The group has moved out of its base in the Midlands and the North with acquisitions that have taken the number of clubs to more than 40.

AUSTIN REED: A steady increase in sales translated into a modest rise for pre-tax profits looks likely when Austin Reed, the upmarket fashion retailer, reports interim figures on Wednesday. Analysts are looking for like-for-like sales to increase by about 7 per cent in the first half, with pre-tax profits coming in 4 per cent higher at £2.4 million.

A flatter picture is expected from the manufacturing arm, with increased sales to the US, including to Ralph Lauren, offset by more difficult markets in Europe.

Earnings of 5p, up 4 per cent, are forecast, with the dividend rising 11 per cent to 2.5p.

CLOSE BROTHERS: Another year of profit growth is expected from the merchant bank and finance group when it reports today. Its three main areas of business — asset finance, marketing and merchant banking — are all expected to have made progress, ensuring the group's 22 years of unbroken profits growth.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of £55.5 million at the top end of the range, against £45.1 million in 1996, with the dividend up from 10p to 11.7p.

UNITED ASSURANCE: The second set of figures from the group formed from the merger of United Friendly and Refuge Assurance last year will show a mixed bag of results when it reports first-half figures on Thursday. Analysts will be particularly keen to see what progress has been made in bedding down the merger of the two groups.

The group, which sells insurance direct to customers at home as its main business, announced job losses and closures earlier this year as it cut back on its workforce and the number of high street branches.

The detail of the results may include more information as to how the merger cost savings are to be allocated between shareholders and policyholders. The figures, say analysts at NatWest Securities, should reflect strong investment returns.

A dividend of 6.1p, up 13 per cent, is forecast, with earnings coming in at 24.6p. Comparison with the previous year's results is difficult because of the merger.

CLARE STEWART

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

All eyes on Brighton

The frenzy of EMU speculation that gripped the market on Friday will elevate the Labour Party conference, which opens in Brighton today, to the most market-sensitive event of the week. The slightest hint of a pro-single-currency statement from any of Labour's senior figures is likely to be seized on by the City as further evidence of the Government's commitment to joining EMU soon. Shares and gilts could be in for another strong week, but the pound will remain vulnerable.

There is little scheduled UK economic data to grab the market's attention ahead of next week's monetary policy committee meeting. The latest surveys of purchasing managers, published on Wednesday and Friday, will give an early snapshot of the economy's performance this month. M0, the measure of narrow money supply, is expected to strengthen after a weaker August. MMS International, the forecaster, predicts that data will show annual growth of 5.5 per cent this month compared with 5 per cent in August when figures are released today.

In the US, the Federal Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday, although economists believe a rate rise at this stage is unlikely. But the latest employment data, issued on Friday, will give a strong clue as to how soon the next rise will come. MMS predicts non-farm payrolls will rise by 300,000 in September against a 49,000 rise in August, although the figures have been complicated by the dampening impact of the UPS strike. But hourly earnings are predicted to show only steady growth at 0.4 per cent.

In Japan, all eyes will be on the third-quarter Tankan survey on Wednesday which is expected to show that manufacturing remains weak. But the report is expected to point to some improvement in the economy as the dampening effects of the consumption tax hike wear off. Extremely weak data could lead to another sharp fall in the Nikkei.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock (Outstanding £bn)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
5,550	Treas 6¾% 1997	100		6.75	
830	Exch 13% 1997	100¹⁵/₃₂	– ¼	14.91	6.92
600	Treas 4¾% 1998	115½		4.00	6.69
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	100¾	– ¼	9.68	6.99
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100¾ †		7.24	6.99
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	104¹⁵/₃₂	– ¼	13.45	6.99
935	Treas 15½% 1998	108¹⁷/₃₂ †	– ¼	14.34	7.04
3,909	Exch 12% 1998	105¹⁵/₃₂	– ¼	11.40	7.02
1,900	Treas 9½% 1999	103¹⁵/₃₂	– ¼	9.22	6.97
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	107¾ †	– ¼	11.41	6.93
1,252	Treas 10¾% 1999	105¾	– ¼	9.96	6.83
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	98¹⁵/₃₂		6.09	6.83
1,798	Conv 10¾% 1999	106¹⁵/₃₂		9.62	6.93
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¼	8.68	6.90
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	103¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁷/₃₂	7.71	6.85
108	Treas 8¾% 2000	103¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¼	8.21	6.81
3,171	Treas 12% 2000	115½	+ ¼	11.26	6.81
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	110¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¼	9.08	6.81
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	101¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¼	6.88	6.65
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
9,000	Treas 7% 2002	102¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁷/₃₂	6.83	6.37
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	113¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	8.59	6.47
8,600	Treas 6% 2003	107½	+ ¼	7.44	6.41
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	117¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¼	8.53	6.46
1,639	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	124¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	10.03	6.69
543	Fund 3½% 1999-04	89¾	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	3.90	5.25
3,417	Conv 9½% 2004	115¹⁵/₃₂	+ ½	8.11	6.43
6,500	Treas 6¼% 2004	102¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¼	6.12	6.38
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	113	+ ²⁵/₃₂	7.52	6.42
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	117¹⁵/₃₂	+ ½	8.06	6.48
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	9.61	6.47
11,700	Treas 7¼% 2006	102¹⁵/₃₂	+ ½	6.99	6.42
4,000	Treas 7¼% 2006	108¹⁵/₃₂	+ ½	7.13	6.46
LONGS (over 15 years)					
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	113¹⁵/₃₂ †	+ ¹⁷/₃₂	7.04	6.60
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	113¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	6.95	6.56
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	123¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁷/₃₂	7.09	6.60
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	117¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	6.82	6.55
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	52¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	6.63	
475	Treas 2½%	38¹⁵/₃₂	– ¼	6.77	
359	Consols 4%	57½	– ¼	6.94	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				10%	5%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	191¹⁷/₃₂†	+ ¼	2.53	3.23
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2003	188½	+ 2¾	2.78	3.25
1,150	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	121¹⁵/₃₂	+ 1¹⁵/₃₂	2.82	3.25
2,350	Treas IL 2% 2006	200¹⁵/₃₂	+ 2¾	2.85	3.28
2,625	Treas IL 2½% 2009	181¹⁵/₃₂	+ 2¾	3.00	3.26
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	188¹⁵/₃₂	+ 2¹⁵/₃₂	3.05	3.28
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	150	+ 1¹⁵/₃₂	3.09	3.29
3,825	Treas IL 2½% 2016	167¹⁵/₃₂	+ 1¹⁵/₃₂	3.12	3.30
3,700	Treas IL 2½% 2020	161¹⁵/₃₂	+ 1¹⁵/₃₂	3.18	3.33
3,950	Treas IL 2½% 2024	134¹⁵/₃₂	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	3.19	3.33
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	132	+ ¹⁵/₃₂	3.19	3.33

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** The Rank Organisation, Northern Rock, Bank of Scotland, Westminster Health Care Holdings, Birchin International, Maid, Allied Domecq; **Hold** Capital and Regional Properties. *The Observer*: **Buy** Close Brothers Group; **Sell** Sears; **Avoid** Redland. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Brent International, MediaKey; **Worth Watching** TrafficMaster. *Independent on Sunday*: **Buy** Northern Rock, Luminar; **Hold** The Electronics Boutique; **Avoid** Loftus Road. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Abbott Mead Vickers, The Hansom Group, Waste Recycling. *The Express on Sunday*: **Buy** Ladbroke; **Avoid** Nottingham Forest; **Worth Watching** Tarmac.

Polypipe accused over election



McDonald: floated group

BY JASON NISSÉ

POLYPIPE, the building materials group, has been accused of breaching its own articles of association by failing to offer its chairman, Kevin McDonald, up for re-election at Thursday's annual shareholders meeting.

Pirc, the pension fund adviser, is recommending that shareholders block the adoption of the company's annual report and accounts in protest at the move, which Pirc says goes against all principles of corporate governance.

Mr McDonald has run the company since 1973, floating it on the stock market 11 years ago, and holds a 16.7 per cent stake. At no time in his 24 years as a director have shareholders had the opportunity to vote for or against his continued presence on the board of the company.

Under pressure from shareholders two years ago, Polypipe changed its articles of association to require its longest-serving directors to stand for re-election.

Under this new criteria the directors standing for re-election should be Mr McDonald and Geoffrey Harrison, a non-executive director who founded the group with Mr McDonald and only gave up his executive responsibilities in 1993.

As it is, Victor Roberts, marketing director, and the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, the other non-executive director, are retiring and offering themselves for re-election.

Polypipe denies that it is breaching its articles of association. The group said that it expects that Mr McDonald will stand for re-election next year.

"We follow best practice," said a spokesman. "Kevin is the man who created this company. He's just split the roles of chairman and chief executive but he does not see why he had to kowtow to every passing fad in corporate governance."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.33	2.15
Austria Sch	20.95	19.29
Belgium Fr	61.89	56.73
Canada $	2.355	2.167
Cyprus Cypf	0.883	0.812
Denmark Kr	11.36	10.49
Finland Mkk	9.03	8.28
France Fr	9.96	9.20
Germany Dm	3.00	2.76
Greece Dr	474	435
Hong Kong $	13.28	12.06
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.16	1.07
Israel Shk	5.95	5.30
Italy Lira	2944	2707
Japan Yen	209.13	191.80
Malta	0.663	0.604
Netherlds Gld	3.383	3.088
New Zealand $	2.66	2.42
Norway Kr	12.08	11.14
Portugal Esc	301.03	279.00
S Africa Rd	8.25	7.29
Spain Pta	250.79	232.00
Sweden Kr	12.97	11.87
Switzerland Fr	2.49	2.28
Turkey Lira	288516	268638
USA $	1.715	1.572

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6053 (-0.0027)
German mark
2.8324 (-0.0162)
Exchange index
99.7 (-0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3374.2 (+128.6)
FTSE 100
5226.3 (+202.5)
New York Dow Jones
7922.18 (+4.91)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17994.71 (-63.5)

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself. TES FOCUS

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The quiet bull market's revolution

Friday's rumours that Britain may be about to rejoin the ERM as a prelude to membership of EMU swept equities to a new, much trumpeted, all-time high. But they also consolidated another, quieter, bull market which may prove to be more sustainable, and of more significance. Over recent weeks, almost unnoticed except by the professionals, gilts have been edging up, bringing long-term interest rates lower. At the end of the great bond bull market of 1993, long-term rates in Britain stood at the apparently unbelievably low level of 6.3 per cent. Last Friday they were at 6.5 per cent, within a hair's breadth of the market peak.

For the non-professional, gilts belong to the esoteric part of our financial system. Yet they are its cornerstone. The man in the street comes into contact with them as he approaches retirement, since they govern the annuity rates that set many a private pension, and the shorter gilts govern the rates at which fixed-rate mortgages are available. Professionals know them as the determinants of the rates at which companies can borrow long-term fixed-interest money, and a substantial influence over the level of the equity market. Economists see them as the expression of the market's views about the future.

In this regard, what has happened recently amounts to a quiet revolution. For although base rates still look likely to rise, the fall in long rates reflects the market's view that beyond the immediate future, interest rates will be lower. The market believes that at the turn of the century base rates will be 6 per cent, and will head lower thereafter. In other words, the market now recognises that as far as interest rates are concerned, we really are in a new era, or rather in a return to the old era which was closed down by the upsurge of wages and oil prices in the 1970s. The recent bull run does not reflect a dawning revelation so much as the latest stage in a protracted creeping realisation, characterised by flashes of optimism followed by bouts of pessimism.

This has been continuing since the end of 1981 when, for a time, long-term interest rates stood at 17 per cent. Then, in the super-bull market of 1982, they fell to within a whisker of 10 per cent.

But that was thought to be impossibly low, so up they went again, then slithered up and down about a gently falling trend until the peak of the Lawson boom again saw them above 12 per cent. By the time of Britain's exit from the ERM, long rates were down to 9½ per cent. Having initially feared an inflationary take-off, the market now



ROGER BOOTLE

saw the light. Long rates plunged in 1993 reaching their lowest levels for nearly 30 years. But the next year the bond bulls were massacred. Market wisdom was that 1993 had been an aberration.

Now that gilts have continued to move higher, it seems that 1994 was the aberration, not 1993. In 1993 bond investors peered into the future and caught a glimpse of the new world of low inflation and interest rates, but were then spooked by ghosts from the inflationary past.

Can gilt yields really fall much further? If you believe the low inflation story, never mind the rumours of EMU membership, the answer has to be yes. Investors who find even the current level of yields incredible are suffering from a failure of imagination. Long rates in Japan are currently below 2 per cent. OK, this evidence can be easily dismissed on the unanswerable grounds that it is Japanese. But ten-year rates in France and Germany are currently 5½ per cent. Why can't British rates reach Franco-German levels?

There used to be three arguments that could just about be made to stand up. The first was that Britain was an inherently inflationary country. Although inflation in Britain remains slightly higher than in most of Europe, this comes after a bout of strong economic growth. There is no fundamental reason to suppose that over the medium term inflation will be any higher in Britain than in Mitteleuropa.

The second argument was that however good the current performance, this would count for nothing come a Labour Government still wedded to high spending and a beer and sandwiches relationship with the trade unions. But these fears have proved totally ill-founded. Macroeconomic policy under Labour is as tight as it was under the Conservatives. As for beer and sandwiches, the most the trade unions can expect is sparkling mineral water and a guacamole dip.

Given recent events, the third argument looks distinctly curious. Outside EMU, supposedly Britain would somehow be shunned by the investment community, fearful that its semi-detached status within the EU would imperil its prosperity and destablise its policy. Yet this self-same status is widely credited with explaining why sterling has been so strong as investors have seen the pound as a safe haven from the euro. Moreover, after Friday's moves, the market is now looking for sterling's EMU entry to shift British interest rates down to continental levels.

Markets move in fits and starts and just because gilts have been strong recently does not mean that they are bound to do well in the immediate future. Yet anyone due to be dependent on an annuity should take heed, and anyone about to borrow money on long-term fixed interest ought to take care. The markets still have not fully shaken off the legacy of the inflationary 1970s. With or without the euro, when they do, never mind 10 per cent, even 6 per cent may be a distant memory.

Rail chiefs call for incentives to boost investment

By Arthur Leathley
Transport Correspondent

PRIVATE rail companies want the Government to increase incentives before they make a commitment to step up investment in the industry.

Senior industry figures are pressing for changes in franchise rules to protect increased investments over the next few years.

They will hold discussions with John O'Brien, the franchising director, next month seeking guarantees that new trains and other equipment will be taken on by whoever wins the next franchise, helping to secure backing from investors.

Passenger increases of up to 12 per cent on some routes since privatisation have prompted companies to consider further investments.

Although £2 billion of investment has been promised as part of existing franchise agreements, several operators say that heavy further investment in new trains is too great a risk because their franchise has only a short time to run.



Garnett: wants changes

However, such protection would draw criticism from some figures in Government who consider that the operators have already been given too much help in the form of subsidies since taking on the running of services.

Many of the 25 rail operators have only seven-year franchises and claim that they are deterred from investing in new trains and technology because the contracts are short-term. Although they lease the trains, some are considering more substantial investment in rolling stock.

Although ministers have made clear that they are not prepared to extend franchises, senior executives say potential investors fear that expensive equipment could become redundant if the next franchisee decides not to lease it from its predecessor. They add that increases in passenger numbers of up to 12 per cent are likely to put strains on existing services over the coming years.

Christopher Garnett, chief executive of Great North Eastern Railway, which operates east coast services from London to Scotland, is among the industry leaders pressing for changes. He said: "There are things that need to be done.

"People have been very ingenious at working within the constraints of the franchise. There are other areas where investment needs to be made and it has proved very difficult to fund it within the limits of the franchise agreement."

Yorkshire homes in on gas

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY will today move on the domestic gas market with a promise of discounts of between 15 and 20 per cent on British Gas tariffs.

The company is unlikely, however, to enter the next round of the competitive market, which opens in Scotland and the North East on November 1. Instead, it will wait until February and target customers in the Yorkshire area when they join the rolling programme of competitive supply. It is expected to fight particularly for business in North Yorkshire, an area which has its electricity supplied by Northern but is within the Yorkshire Television area.

Yorkshire will start its campaign for household gas customers in October with television and press advertising. It has already begun door-to-door selling. The company is pursuing alliances with national partners to extend its market potential once the full market is open by spring 1998.

Yorkshire Electricity already has a substantial gas operation supplying business and last week struck a deal to supply all Asda outlets.

Telstra prospectus published

From A Correspondent in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S biggest public share offer gets under way today as the Government publishes the flotation prospectus for a one-third stake in Telstra Corp, the telecoms company.

Stockbrokers and fund managers have valued the stake at up to A$14 billion (£6.4 billion). About 2.3 million Australians have expressed interest in buying the shares. John Fahey, Finance Minister, and Frank Blount, Telstra's chief executive, are launching the prospectus in Melbourne. It will include an indicative price range for the shares, an expected discount for retail investors, and the expected allocation of shares to retail, institutional and foreign investors. Most brokers have valued the shares at A$2.90 to A$3.50.

In its registration statement filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this month Telstra forecast it would make a net profit of close to A$3 billion in its first year as a listed company. Its net profit in 1996-97 was A$1.62 billion.

The document also outlines the main risks for investors, including the possibility of a lower market share, increasing competition, the group's exposure to Australia's loss-making pay television industry, and litigation from its main rival, Optus Communications, which is partly owned by the UK's Cable and Wireless. Telstra, which carries more than 90 per cent of all telephone, fax and data calls on landlines, has forecast a 2 per cent fall in market share in its earnings for the year to next June. It also plans to shed a further 6,900 staff.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	14.10 AFA Systems	117½	...	...	...
153½	131½	19.50 AMCO Corp	136½	− ½	6.0	7.0
422½	170	45.40 AND Int Pub	207½	− 2½	...	...
127½	84½	8.14 Abacus Recrut	125	− 1	1.5	...
195	99½	27.80 Access Plus	167½	...	3.9	19.0
89¼	5¼	4.33 Active Imaging	10½	− 1	...	...
230	200	30.30 A de Grucby	205	...	4.5	10.3
11¼	7¼	7.72 African Gold	7½	− ½	..	30.3
117½	72½	39.80 Aintech	87½	− 1	...	...
44½	31¼	14.80 Albemarle & Bd	39	...	1.6	...
52½	39	5.45 Alizyme	31½	...	...	...
111½	73½	2.40 Anglo-Welsh	77½	...	...	...
610	455	58.60 Ann St Brewery	610	...	4.2	12.3
1235	1015	7.32 Ann St Cv Pf	1235	...	6.5	...
129½	65½	62.40 Antenov	81½	− 3	...	...
148½	99½	21.10 Aortech	122½	...	...	...
105	103	5.30 Aram Resources	103	...	5.1	...
100½	90	9.18 Archer Dedicated	90	...	2.2	42.8
36½	7	6.40 Arrco Props	27	...	...	...
115	30	34.60 Ashurst	40	...	...	...
262½	130	46.80 Ask Central	225	− 2½	0.3	34.8
69½	64½	1.22 Asheley Trust	67½	...	1.9	58.4
103½	69½	52.80 Avalon Oil	69½	− 1	...	...
144½	130½	40.90 BATM Adv Comms	131½	...	2.4	...
3¾	3½	2.57 Bakery Services	3½	...	...	19.1
59½	25	5.50 Barbican Health	28½	...	...	...
12½	6½	32.80 Barrasford	12¼	...	...	...
3¼	2	3.78 Beechcroft	2	...	...	7.7
4½	2½	6.77 Beaufort	3½	...	2.4	19.4
44½	36½	5.74 Bickerton	37½	− 1	...	15.4
90	60	1.36 Billam	85	− 6	8.0	25.3
76½	46½	4.14 Billston Bitrsea	46½	− 3½	4.0	24.3
2¼	1	4.80 Birchin Intl	1¼	...	...	...
1¼	0¾	0.07 Birchin Wts	0¾	...	...	...
64	33½	24.20 Birmingham City	48½	− 3	...	...
80½	70½	7.54 Blakes Cloth	73½	...	2.4	8.2
205	145	1.44 Bowness Leis	205	...	3.1	7.6
62½	39½	9.29 Brancote Hdgs	50½	...	...	...
95	85	3.74 Br Bloodstock	89	...	3.8	10.8
200	144½	20.10 CA Coutts Hldgs	190	...	2.1	15.1
180	128½	10.80 C & B Publishing	150	...	...	13.8
109½	109½	0.12 CCI Founder Shr	109½	...	...	...
190½	140½	1.34 CCI Hldgs	167½	− 2	1.9	8.5
215	170	9.07 Cafe Inns	185	− 4	2.0	17.4
70	55	8.00 Caledonian Tst	65	...	...	11.1
17½	9	2.22 Cambridge Min Res	10	− 1¼	...	...
51	29	37.80 Cad Clear	41	− 4	0.3	37.4
97½	52½	5.50 Carisbrooke Shp	54½	...	8.0	5.1
62	45	2.64 Cassidy Bros	48	− 2	7.8	54.9
57½	42½	1.87 Cavendish W	42½	...	4.7	21.7
18	12	4.01 Celebrated Group	12	− ½	3.1	...
£550	£275	94.50 Celtic	£315	...	...	19.8
£450	£255	47.20 Celtic Pl 'Shs	£255	−1000	1.4	...
112½	96½	24.60 Cl Comms(TV)	112½	...	3.4	...
65	49½	11.70 Charlton Ath	53½	+ 2	...	...
9	6¼	8.09 Charterhouse	8	...	...	16.7
37½	12½	1.44 Charwell Intl	12½	...	...	...
170	101½	174.40 Chelsea Village	111½	...	...	...
355	145	13.90 Chemical Design	210	+ 5	...	29.8
109½	95½	31.80 Citadel	95½	...	...	...
110	105	0.94 Clan Homes	105	...	...	27.9
4½	2½	1.88 ClubPartners	4	...	...	...
152½	132½	16.60 Comino	150½	...	1.9	13.9
587½	527½	13.50 Com de Prt Fin	562½	...	2.2	...
155	109½	8.85 Compuserland UK	147½	+ 27½	1.2	22.1
30	14	9.46 Concurrent Tech	19½	...	0.6	30.8
150	95	0.25 Conc Tech A Prf	100	...	...	...
150	95	0.20 Conc Tech B Prf	100	...	...	...
200	125	1.01 Conc Tech Rd Pf	150	...	...	...
300	150	0.17 Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	...
41	31½	8.84 Concilio Tst	40	...	6.2	10.0
4½	2	6.63 Corporate Exec	2½	− ½	...	...
230	153½	43.80 Country Gdns	222½	+ 7½	0.9	15.9
175	117½	5.04 Cntry Gdns Pf	165	+ 10	7.6	...
37½	6½	4.49 Crabs Intl	12½	...	...	...
290	205	3.88 Crown Eye	242½	...	6.4	20.1
28½	2¾	1.76 Crown Product	3¾	...	...	9.4
22½	18½	1.03 Dalkeith Inns	21½	...	...	...
137½	84½	1.29 David Glass	135	...	5.6	13.4
264½	120½	9.53 Dawn Int Desk	257½	...	0.7	19.1
262½	180	127.60 Dawson Hldgs	225	+ 10	2.7	21.7
17½	10½	7.16 Dean Corp	15½	...	4.8	7.5
174½	167½	10.60 Deep Sea Leisure	167½	...	...	41.3
3¼	2	3.23 Dentmaster	2½	− ¼	4.5	...
400	310	40.30 Dicom	312½	− 2½	0.6	12.8
105½	99½	14.20 Digital Ammin	98½	...	...	...
101½	74½	8.48 Delyn Group	97½	− 1	2.6	47.1
72½	39½	7.43 Dmark	39½	...	...	...
310	240	12.10 Dobbies Garden	252½	...	2.2	14.7
148½	122½	14.20 Dragons Health	142½	+ 13	...	26.9
3¼	2	1.90 Drings of Bath	3½	− ¼	...	23.2
42½	30	3.38 Eagle	34½	...	...	...
85½	49½	16.10 Easynet	78½	+ 7	...	...
462½	207½	89.10 Elec Retail Sys	422½	− 32½	...	...
60½	27½	32.20 Electrophoresis	41½	+ 6	...	...
52½	7½	3.36 Epic Multimedia	14	− ½	...	...
65	45	11.60 Epicure Networks	45	...	...	...
275	110	4.35 Eurasia Mining	115	...	...	...
27	19	1.68 European Mng Fin	20½	+ ½	...	...
2½	2½	0.03 European Mng Fin Wts	2½	...	...	...
135	125	6.08 Euro Sales Fin	135	...	...	14.4
3¼	3	3.69 Fairplace Cons	3	− ½	...	...
350	140	4.55 Farfalo	175	...	...	13.6
77½	47½	7.40 Fayrewood	52½	...	1.9	...
191½	114	44.80 Fibernet	120½	− 2	...	...
89½	34½	1.73 Fiddlers	34½	...	...	...
242½	205	6.51 Fiel Public	232½	...	...	8.1
14½	4½	1.01 First Inter	5	− ½	...	...
200	109½	51.00 Fitness First	185½	+ 17	...	66.8
230	110	3.38 Flomerics	130	+ 15	2.9	63.7
282½	122½	3.80 Flocal Sl	122½	...	1.5	8.1
32½	22½	4.72 FNR Hldgs	22½	...	...	...
152½	111½	11.80 Forrescan	111½	− 5	3.6	11.2
114½	89½	10.10 Fountain Foresby	112½	+ 1½	3.1	16.0
51½	33¾	178.70 Freepages	36½	− ¾	...	...
180½	140½	10.80 Furlong Homes	179½	+ ½	3.0	9.3
164½	75½	8.60 Future Int Telep	77½	...	...	...
296	129½	14.50 GB Railways	164½	− 1½	...	...
65	52½	6.91 GR Hldgs	52½	...	...	41.8
55½	50½	16.30 Gall Thomson Env	52½	...	3.0	11.2
16¼	11½	41.70 Gander Hdgs	14¼	− ½	...	...
124½	82½	92.70 Garland W&B	106½	+ 7½	0.4	5.0
102	54½	91.00 Geo Int Media	91	+ ½	...	...
32½	12	32.40 Gold Mines Sard	25	− ½	...	...
26	7	8.57 Gold Mns Sard Wts	16	− 1½	...	...
127½	107½	61.60 Goshawk Insce	107½	...	...	...
3½	2¾	3.00 Grosvenor Hdgs	3	...	...	...
1¼	0½	1.50 Grosvenor Hdgs Wts	1¼	...	...	...
15¼	11¼	1.59 Grosvenor Ltd	13	...	...	...
165	140	37.30 Guilon	165	+ 3½	3.7	12.3
8	5¾	2.97 Hansom	7¾	+ ½	...	...
175	150	10.90 Hardy Underwg	150	...	1.7	24.5
80½	54½	3.28 Hat Pln	74½	...	4.6	24.3
305	275	8.83 Hawtree	275	...	3.7	15.1
275	245	11.60 Hawtree A	275	...	3.2	12.8
135	90½	5.43 Hellicon Pub	92½	...	...	...
262	110	16.00 Hercules Prop	250	...	1.2	...
175	105	10.70 Highams Sys	120	...	...	16.7
127½	120½	7.83 Highland Timber	120½	...	...	...
75	65	1.20 Hurlingham	75	+ 5	...	...
107½	81½	5.66 Hydro-Dynamic	84½	...	5.3	...
172½	97	11.90 IES	66½	− 5	2.2	...
135½	134½	6.47 I S Solutions	135½	...	...	45.8
89½	68½	20.50 Ind Brit Health	76½	− ½	1.6	16.4
124½	56½	21.70 Indpt Energy	123½	...	...	...
133½	76½	13.70 Indpt Radio	76½	− 5	...	...
203½	141½	46.20 Infobank Intl	185	− ½	...	...
74½	42½	14.50 Inner Workings	74½	...	...	...
125	102½	3.25 Ashgard Ac Mgt	125	...	...	...
82½	24½	5.60 Intelligent Env	25	− ½	...	...
110	42½	26.20 Internet Tech	85½	+ ½	...	...
151½	35½	22.80 Interroute Tele	68½	+ 13½	...	...
362½	222½	46.50 Intl Greetings	352½	− 5	2.4	13.6
179½	59½	22.90 IOC Intl	93½	+ 1	...	30.5
164½	150½	7.19 ITG Group	163½	+ 1	...	...

1997 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
155½	72½	6.38 Jardinene Inls	72½	...	...	26.8
131½	62½	5.33 Jasmin	130	...	...	10.9
347	290	25.00 Jennings Bros	338	...	2.8	22.2
4¼	3	4.84 J Lewis Hldrd	3½	...	...	16.9
62½	42½	6.88 Jordec	42½	− 1	...	...
5¼	2	4.63 Just Group	2½	...	...	22.1
132½	91½	48.10 KS Biomedix	113½	− 2	...	...
50½	47½	5.46 Kem River	47½	...	...	...
78	64½	7.28 Keystone Software	65	− 4½	...	...
35	19½	Keystone Wts	22½	− 5	...	...
185	172½	17.90 Kingfisher Ls	185	+ 7½	1.4	15.4
130½	120	5.23 Lady in Leisure	124½	+ 2	...	...
98	92½	4.23 Landround	95	...	4.3	16.7
132½	24½	9.21 La Senza	27½	+ 2	...	...
150	85	18.30 Enterprises	98½	+ 1½	5.6	...
390	340	27.30 Lawrence	390	...	2.5	16.3
3750	3150	77.20 Lawrie Group	3750	+200	2.5	9.8
95½	76½	7.07 Lepco	95½	+ 2	...	37.6
480	326	79.70 Le Riches Sbs	480	+ 5	5.2	18.4
14	9	0.46 Life Numbers	9¼	...	...	...
4	2	0.06 Life Numbers Wts	2	...	...	...
535	480	18.30 Loades	515	...	0.2	20.5
108½	40½	18.00 Lolfus Road	45	+ 2	...	...
12¾	4¾	1.52 Lon & Edin Publ	5	...	...	22.1
75	65	1.82 London Town	65	...	3.1	12.7
119½	112½	3.81 Longbridge Intl	115½	+ 2	2.2	16.1
87½	34½	8.00 Loox	34½	...	...	...
3¼	1¼	3.89 Lotsrylong	2¼	...	...	76.5
1	0½	0.09 Lotsrylong Wts	0½	...	...	...
88	41½	5.02 MMS Petroleum	41½	− 5	...	...
27½	8½	6.05 Magnum Power	9½	...	...	...
290½	239½	35.90 Majestic Wine	262½	...	1.5	24.8
19½	9	6.00 Manx & O'seas	10	− ¼	4.1	55.3
125	105	2.65 Matrix Hithcare	115	...	6.5	18.5
13¼	10¼	4.64 Mears Group	12½	...	3.0	11.5
24	13½	32.60 Medisys	19½	− 2	...	...
98½	75	50.00 Megalomedia	81½	− 1½	0.3	40.6
93½	70	0.81 Megalomedia Wts	73½	...	...	...
67½	39½	2.80 Mellak	40	...	7.8	29.5
65	22½	23.90 Memory Corp	37½	− 2	...	...
165	45	3.23 Meteor Tech	45½	+ ½	...	...
75	28½	2.90 Meteor Tech Wts	30	...	...	...
67½	46	5.74 Meltwen's	67½	+ 7½	...	...
25	13	3.20 Metrodome	13	...	...	73.0
84½	57½	4.73 Mondas	77½	...	...	...
350	200	30.20 Moorepay	280	...	2.0	33.1
126½	88½	9.27 Mountcashel	122	− 1½	...	...
215	127½	26.60 Mulberry Group	138½	− 1½	1.5	22.0
40	2	0.85 MultiMedia	3	...	...	...
21	16	1.85 NECA	17	...	5.5	8.7
54½	44½	19.60 NMT	50	...	...	...
72½	62½	7.80 NRF	62½	...	2.5	26.6
205	185	14.20 NWF Grp	185	...	5.4	10.8
220	185	13.10 Nash (Wm)	187½	− 2½	5.1	6.6
300	260	7.28 Neill Clerk	260	...	3.8	9.4
85½	45½	11.10 Netcall	73½	...	...	...
80½	75	1.82 Norhomes	80	...	...	24.8
50½	29½	6.57 Atlin Petrm	35½	+ ½	...	...
47½	28½	2.80 Northstar Sec	44½	...	...	...
20	9	0.40 Northstar Sec Wts	20	...	...	...
123	112½	48.60 Nursing Home	122½	+ 1	5.9	16.9
10½	1½	0.55 Ormindale	2¼	...	...	...
97½	44	1.45 On Line	44	− 7½	...	...
65½	29½	16.80 Oxford Biomedica	29½	− 3	...	...
9¾	1¼	19.20 Pacific Media	1½	...	...	...
69½	25	15.50 Pan Andean Res	35½	− 4½	...	...
245	220	5.76 Park Ests(Liv)	240	...	4.7	23.5
23¾	13	8.26 Pemberton	17¼	+ ¼	...	...
57½	29	6.20 Personal No Co	40	...	...	...
123½	38½	34.00 Petra Diamonds	101½	...	...	...
94	13½	1.21 Petra Dmnds Wt	72½	...	...	...
132½	24½	11.70 Philippine Gd	27½	...	...	...
70½	52½	12.80 Pilat Tech	58½	+ 2	...	13.0
138½	97½	26.30 Polymasc Pharms	131½	+ 1½	...	...
3¼	1¼	3.82 Pordum Foods	1¾	...	...	52.4
1½	0¾	0.22 Pordum Fds Wts	1	...	...	...
22	13	8.57 Premier Asset Mgt	13¾	...	...	48.4
3¼	2¼	3.97 Prestbury Leisure	3	+ ¼	13.3	12.1
590	530	10.60 Preston Nth E	530	...	...	...
104½	102½	16.40 Primary Hlth Pr	102½	...	1.5	...
580	260	74.30 Prem Rail	295	− 6	...	...
84½	56½	8.69 Pycroft & Arnold	57	− 1	...	9.1
127½	100½	17.00 Q Group	101¼	− 6	...	...
1265	945	332.20 Ramco Egy	1100	− 32½	0.1	...
110½	77½	15.20 Rashed Zm	102½	− 3	2.4	9.3
127½	87½	14.80 Recycling Servs	97½	+ 4	4.4	...
125	73½	10.10 Reflec	81½	− 3½	...	...
7¼	4¼	5.57 Revelation Pic	6	+ ¼	1.6	8.2
45	17½	20.80 Ricewan Insce	31½	− 1½	...	35.3
99½	74½	5.07 Ropiec	97½	...	1.9	20.9
128½	106½	7.99 SBS	112½	+ 2	2.7	19.6
182½	153½	19.00 SIG Ent	162½	− 2½	...	16.2
42½	17½	4.94 SEA Multimedia	18½	...	...	...
75½	62½	6.62 Sanbury Musc	67½	...	...	12.9
150½	139½	25.60 Science Sys	150½	...	1.2	22.2
12½	5½	0.80 Scotswood Inds	7½	...	...	...
6	3¾	9.20 Screen	4½	...	...	18.6
350	230	11.50 Scrutton	240	...	6.9	44.3
82	45½	8.87 Selector	45½	− 2	...	...
30½	17½	1.13 Self Sealing	19½	...	...	...
177½	154½	12.10 Shaltbone	170½	− 2	2.9	13.6
104½	74	4.64 Shelton (M)	87½	...	6.1	15.9
19½	12½	49.60 Sibir Energy	18½	+ 1	...	...
270	208½	39.80 Sinclair Montrs	240	− 2	...	52.2
4½	2¼	8.23 Sira Bus Serv	3¾	...	1.8	17.0
1½	1	0.24 Sira Bus Wts	1¼	...	...	...
3¾	1	10.10 Skateboard	1½	...	...	...
110½	99½	11.10 Soccer Inv	110½	...	...	...
84½	79½	5.01 Solid State Sp	79½	...	4.7	19.6
34½	26½	2.73 Soundtracs	27	...	5.6	8.1
6½	4¼	6.89 South Beach Cafe	4¼	...	...	...
783	619½	184.40 Southern News	758	+ 32	3.4	...
72½	65½	13.40 Southern Vectis	67½	...	3.9	14.0
564	173½	32.50 Stalwart	280	+ 1	0.4	36.7
635	427½	102.80 Stanford Rook	531½	+ 84	...	...
177½	125½	14.70 Stanlor	125½	− 2	...	...
54½	37½	Stanlor Wts	43½	+ 6	...	...
87½	77½	13.70 Style Hldgs	87½	+ 2	2.1	11.7
155	127	14.60 Sutton Harbour	146	− ½	2.9	20.9
22	5	1.47 Syst Integ Rsch	11	...	...	...
23	17	3.88 TDS Circuits	17½	...	...	8.1
97½	55½	9.15 Theo Fennell	58½	− 3½	...	16.5
14	6¼	12.60 Thomas Potts	7	− ¾	1.9	21.0
32½	22½	2.38 Tom Hoskins	30½	+ 3	...	...
158½	142½	22.90 Total Office	142½	...	4.2	8.9
675	375	31.30 TRACKER Netwk	590	+ 5	...	37.9
127	55	26.40 Tradepoint Fcl	113½	− 10	...	...
167	145	5.22 Tricy Care	145	...	4.3	31.1
170	170	1.50 Trinity Care Pf	170	...	5.5	...
80½	17½	96.80 Trocadero	19	− 1	...	...
40	38	3.46 Umivent	38	...	...	21.0
397½	317½	5.71 Utd Auctions	317½	...	3.5	8.5
280	120	16.10 VDC	153	+ 11¼	4.2	14.2
46	20¾	116.10 Versailles Grp	46	...	1.1	33.4
53	45	88.10 Victory Corp	46½	...	...	...
242½	45	1.57 Viewpin	240	...	...	...
88½	49¾	24.80 Waterfall	225	− 5	...	...
34	27	6.17 Watermark	71	+ 5½	...	17.3
42	9½	13.20 Wedderburn Secs	32½	+ 1	3.1	11.7
7	5	7.25 Weslo Group	21	+ 2½	...	...
115	75	3.48 West 175 Enter	5½	...	2.3	9.9
£280	£130	11.70 West Bromwich	85	...	...	...
12½	10½	4.75 Western Selectn	£160	...	...	24.7
4½	4½	0.38 Western Sel Wts	11	...	...	43.7
140½	44½	12.30 Westmount Engy	4½	...	...	...
90½	80½	4.26 Whitecross	109½	+ 2	...	...
245	181½	36.90 Whitbard Chelsea	88½	...	...	...
91

Newsquest ready for flotation

Newsquest, the regional newspaper group, will today announce details of its proposed stock market flotation amid speculation that it may soon make an offer for the regional newspaper business of United News & Media.

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Cinven are expected to retain significant shareholdings after the flotation, will raise about £100 million and capitalise Newsquest at £700 million. United's regional newspapers have an annual turnover of £135 million. The business has been valued by analysts at up to £400 million.

EMU index

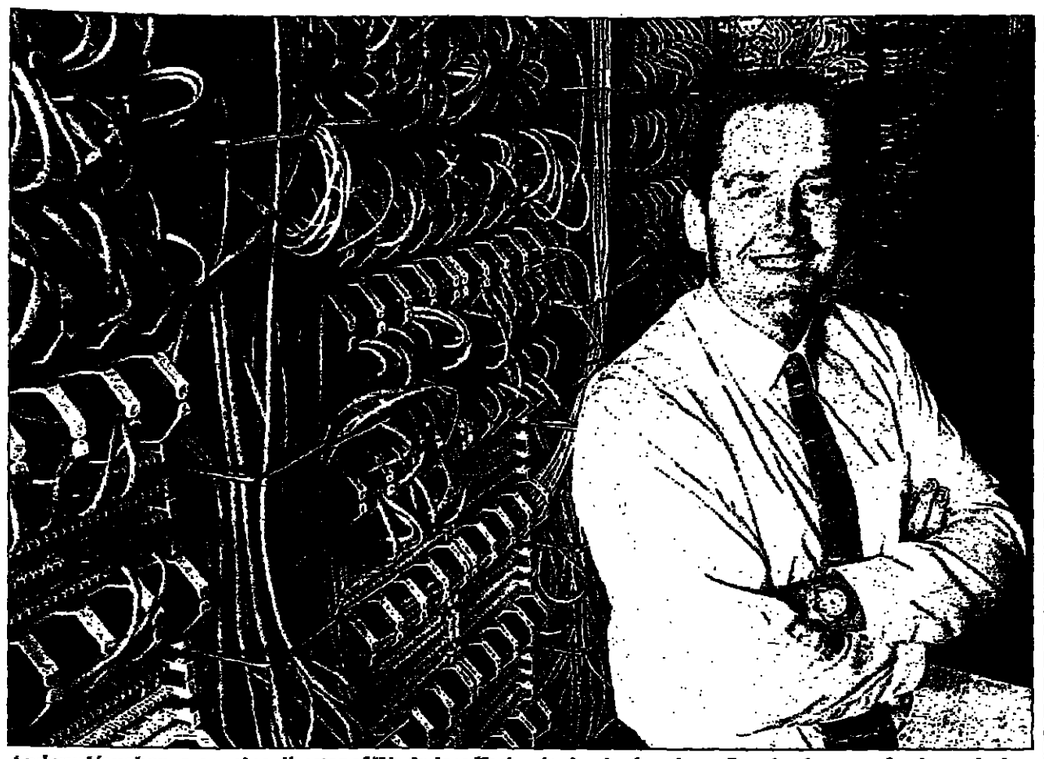
Germany's bourse plans to introduce pan-European stock indices to compete with London's stock market after the planned introduction of the European single currency. It will launch one index covering stocks in the monetary union area and a broader index of about 50 stocks from all over Europe. Joerg Franke, management board member of the Deutsche Boerse holding company, said yesterday.

Sell-off

Club Méditerranée, the holiday company, has appointed agents to sell three of its ski resort properties as it bids to stem losses. Christie & Co, the London property agent, is circulating details of three Swiss properties to potential buyers. It is thought to be asking around £16 million for the three.

Failures fall

There has been a big drop in the number of business failures in Britain over the past three months, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the business information service. Since July there have been 8,432 failures, about 650 a week, the lowest number for the third quarter since 1990.



Andrew Vaughan, managing director of Workplace Technologies, is planning a flotation by way of a share placing later this year. It is expected to value the company at around £45 million. The company, which designs and installs data, voice and video networks, produced an operating profit of £2.5 million on turnover of £52 million during 1996.

Late rush for assessment piles up problems for IR

By Robert Bruce

THE Inland Revenue is creaking under the strain as it reaches the first of its deadlines for the filing of self-assessment tax forms. Current figures suggest that by tomorrow night, about half the 8.5 million taxpayers due to file returns will have done so.

But in coping with the influx, the Revenue is falling behind with other work and, with changes in the tax system likely in the November Green Budget, may find its resources next year are not up the task.

At the end of last week 100,000 tax forms per day were arriving at the Revenue. That should mean, said Doug Smith, head of the Revenue's self-assessment taskforce, that the total will be between 4 and 4.8 million. "It will be an interesting time on Tuesday," he said.

The September 30 deadline was created to smooth the Revenue's workload. The true deadline is January 31 next year but as an incentive to get forms in early, the Revenue offered to carry out the calculation of tax liabilities for taxpayers on forms filed before the end of this month.

But the clearing of the decks for self-assessment has created problems elsewhere. John Andrews of Coopers & Lybrand, president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, said much of the Revenue's other work has been sidelined. "Lots of things, like dealing with past years' tax and getting it up to date are being left undone in the hope that they can catch up later," he said.

Bob Brown, national director of tax investigation services at Ernst & Young, the accountant, said that "the Revenue's software system is creaking and there are a lot of problems keeping it together." John Whiting, head of tax at Price Waterhouse, the accountant, said he doubted the Revenue could cope with the numbers asking for tax to be computed.

However, Mr Smith is confident the Revenue will manage the workload. "We have 50,000 forms a day going into the system," he said, "so we should have them cleared by November and then we can focus on other areas. We know some offices are struggling and we knew we were going to have to juggle our resources."

This is where the real problems lie. Mr Smith said most Revenue offices are streaming correspondence. "We are dealing with anything urgent or which can be dealt with immediately but anything neither quick nor needing urgent attention will be left to slip a month or two."

It is this slippage that worries tax advisers. The Chancellor is expected to put forward proposals in a Green Budget in November that would increase the Revenue's workload after next year's March Budget — the very time it would be hoping to catch up after the first year of self-assessment.

Hollywood ally for British film-makers

From Oliver August in New York

BRITISH film-makers have a new ally in Hollywood. Carl Icahn, the billionaire arbitrageur and corporate raider, is investing $50 million (£30 million) in a US distribution company for independent films.

Stratosphere Entertainment, which is to be launched this week, will release 12 low budget films every year, at least one of them British. Mr Icahn has hired Paul Cohen, a 20-year distribution veteran who brought many Oscar-winning foreign films to America, and Richard Abramowitz, who was responsible for the distribution of the romantic classic *A Room With A View*.

Stratosphere is being formed in response to the recent string of mergers in the entertainment industry. Mr Icahn said he has identified a niche in the market for a small, versatile distributor not tied to a big Hollywood studio. The mainstream studios have rushed to own distribution arms. Walt Disney bought Miramax Films. Time Warner acquired New Line Cinema through its merger with Turner Broadcasting System, and Universal Studios has gained control of October Films.

Mr Cohen said Stratosphere will spend no more than $10 million to acquire a film or to pre-buy a script. Its first film will be released in February or March.



Icahn: film-makers' friend

Job prospects 'heading for ten-year high'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

JOB prospects will improve "dramatically" over the next three months to reach a ten-year high, a leading employment survey forecasts today.

Manpower says prospects for jobs are set to rise dramatically over the next quarter to "reach levels not witnessed since the late 1980s."

The agency's latest survey, covering more than 2,300 employers, shows that for the three months to December 31, 32 per cent of firms surveyed are expecting to increase staffing levels, with nine per cent forecasting a fall and 58 per cent no change. The net balance of 23 per cent of firms forecasting a rise marks a six-point increase on the figure for the same period last year, and is a rise from 20 per cent in the third quarter of 1997.

Manpower says that the "year is set to end as it began", with record levels of recruitment anticipated, and the net balance of job growth at its highest since 1988. However, the survey strikes one note of caution, noting that the current figures "parallel the situation before the economy dipped into recession in 1990."

Service sector firms are now the "driving force" behind job growth, the survey says, with a net balance of 32 per cent of service companies forecasting a rise in jobs, which is a sharp increase from the figure 12 months ago of 19 per cent.

Retailing and the leisure industries are forecasting the fastest increases, responding to high levels of consumer spending. Manufacturing, at a net balance of 22 per cent, is still strong and employers in local and national government are the only ones in the survey to be forecasting job losses.

Fuel group warns on poverty gap

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

COMPETITION in energy will further widen the gap between rich and poor as companies shun low-income users, an energy charity has told the Government.

The warning comes as unions and pressure groups attempt to hoist fuel poverty up the political agenda at the Labour Party conference, which starts today.

In a submission to the Department of Trade and Industry's review into utility regulation, the National Energy Action charity said that while new entrants to the gas market in the South West have offered an average 14 per cent off bills for direct debit customers, the reduction for customers with pre-payment meters averages only 3 per cent. Some companies offer no reduction to those customers, who are also to be ignored by British Gas in its national price cuts.

NEA told Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade: "As yet there is no indication that this is a matter of concern to regulators."

Mrs Beckett has pledged to put consumers first in changes to the regulatory system although Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, has fired a broadside at the DTI over such plans, saying that they are not feasible.

NEA said: "The focus on economic regulation means that both environmental and social concerns have been given minimal attention." The charity has urged greater parliamentary scrutiny of regulatory decisions and called for a merger of the gas and electricity watchdogs.

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Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the six which will be published this week and attach them to the application form. There are two ways to apply:

By Phone: Call 0990 334 000 to find out where your nearest Click Group studio is. Lines are open 24 hours a day. Take your tokens and completed application form to your sitting to validate your free portrait. Appointments must be made by October 25, 1997.

By Post: Send the completed application form to: *The Times* Portrait Offer, The Click Group, Click House, California Lane, Bushey Heath, Herts WD2 1EZ before October 18, 1997. You will be contacted before October 25 to arrange your sitting.

A £15 fully refundable booking deposit will be requested at the time of booking. Cancellations must be made within 24 hours of your sitting. No cash alternative for this offer is available.





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Title ..... Initials ..... Surname .....

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Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

1 15-24 2 25-34 3 35-44 4 45-54 5 55-64 6 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

THE TIMES THE CLICK GROUP FREE PORTRAIT

THE TIMES



Japanese public prosecutors raiding the headquarters of Daiwa Securities, which was suspected of making illegal payments to *sokaiya*

Corporate extortion brings shame to Tokyo firms

Joanna Pitman looks at the role of the sokaiya, 'the general meeting fixers' of Japanese business

A couple of years ago I was snoozing at the packed annual shareholder meeting of a large Japanese company when something made me look up. I realised, horrified and embarrassed, that the panel of grey-suited executives on stage were staring at me. Or rather at something just beyond my shoulder.

I turned round to see a Japanese man with permed hair and sunglasses scrambling up on to his chair brandishing a bottle that he had produced from a rolled-up newspaper, and threatening to hurl it at the elderly and now ashen-faced executives.

He launched into a torrent of crude abuse, but was soon hauled away by police. The incident was unsettling enough, but even more so was the total indifference of the rest of the audience.

Such commotions erupt regularly in Japanese shareholders' meetings and nobody thinks much of them. The man on the chair was a *sokaiya*, literally a "general meeting fixer", a sub-species of gangster whose metier is corporate extortion and whose activities have prompted the resignations of more than 50 senior Japanese financial executives since this spring from some of the country's leading financial services companies.

All four of the country's leading securities firms have been disgraced by the scandals.

On Wednesday Daiwa Securities, Japan's second-largest broker, announced that its chairman and five other senior executives would resign in the wake of allegations that the company made illegal payments to *sokaiya* in return for their withholding sensitive information on the company. On Thursday the headquarters of Nikko Securities were raided by the police after prosecutors accused the company of making illegal payments to Ryuichi Koike, a well known *sokaiya* gang boss.

Earlier in the week the former president of Yamaichi Securities was arrested over the case, after a number of related resignations at his company. These have followed similar reshuffles at Nomura, the leading brokerage, and at Dai Ichi Kangyo Bank, as well as suspensions from parts of the domestic market after they too were accused of making similar payments to *sokaiya*.

Japanese *sokaiya* have an ambivalent relationship with the society in which they operate. They are officially despised, unofficially tolerated and hugely prosperous, thanks to scrupulous attention to the laws of supply and demand. Their role is derived from the skilful exploitation of a simple fact: that although individual shareholders are nominally part owners of a company, Japanese business culture accords them virtually no rights at all. Most shares in listed companies are held in the safe hands of *keiretsu* affiliates, according to a system of interlocking shareholder patterns that allow corporate members to strike mutually profitable long-term deals with each other. The

> More than 50 senior financial executives have resigned since the spring

keiretsu shareholders are indifferent to short-term profits and the absence of a takeover mechanism means that the views of the individual shareholders are, at best, an irrelevance, at worst a nuisance.

At shareholder meetings, the *sokaiya* were originally employed to ensure that no awkward questions were asked by individuals and that proceedings were drawn to a swift and harmonious conclusion. The average length of an annual shareholder meeting is still just 16 minutes, but from time to time *sokaiya* disputes erupt with the management over remuneration for their services. And when the *sokaiya* are upset, the results can be spectacular. Sony's 1984 general meeting, for example, called at a time of internal upheaval, is still remembered with trepidation. It lasted 13 hours, insults and chairs were thrown, and some of the abuse-laden "questions" lasted 20 minutes.

The *sokaiya* first emerged in the 1960s, when gangsters were called in to help to silence the victims of an industrial poisoning disaster. By buying shares and demanding to be heard at shareholders' meetings, these victims had found a chink in the protective armour of an indifferent corporate shareholding system. This attracted gangster attentions to the vulnerability of their businesses. By the Eighties, specialist extortion gangs employing about 7,000 individuals had emerged, against which no large firm was safe.

A 1982 amendment to the commercial code made *sokaiya* practices illegal in theory, but those companies that co-operated with the police continued to suffer ordeals at their meetings. By this time, the *sokaiya* had become a necessary evil in many corporate eyes, because they protected companies that were hiding scandals. If adequately paid, the *sokaiya* would still enforce the unwritten rule of "no questions" at the ritual shareholder meetings, most of which are held under heavy police guard and on the same day to spread troublesome elements as thinly as possible.

No longer so visible in their Al Capone self-parody costumes of loud double-breasted suits, black shirts and fat white ties, today's *sokaiya* have developed a more refined style, ostensibly running "research institutes" and publishing periodicals on economic subjects. The research is, of course, designed to arm themselves with sensitive information and many large firms have responded by setting up specialist departments for "*sokaiya* affairs", although their counter efforts are clearly ineffective and many of them end by paying up.

This year's public clampdowns on payments to *sokaiya* is being interpreted as an effort by the Government to clean up the image of Japan's financial services sector before deregulation. Japan's Big Bang is expected to result in greater domestic competition, forcing Japanese firms to look for more business overseas; and for this they should be seen to be clean. But the sanitising efforts of the authorities appear to be both feeble and misdirected. It is the "sensitive corporate dealings" on the knowledge of which the *sokaiya* thrive that should be the target of their clampdown, not the blackmail payments. And the *sokaiya* themselves, and particularly their gangster brethren, have prospered for so long, tolerated by the State, that they are not likely to capitulate after a six-month scrubbing exercise on the part of the Ministry of Finance.

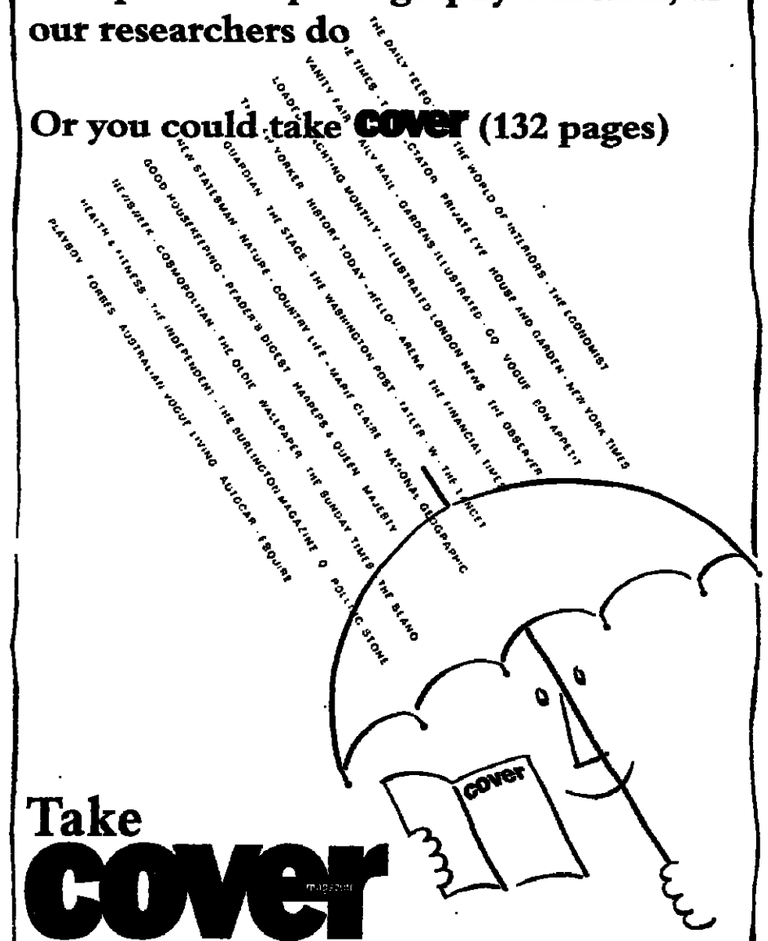
Ordinary Japanese have a complex attitude to the "sub-legal" gang elements in their midst. According to popular legend, they were a force for stability in the tumultuous years after Japan's surrender in 1945. To the young, they are cartoon heroes who offer a source of escapism. Their real-life adventures are chronicled in the tabloid press. But they are deadly serious and they have dug their roots deep into the soil of Japanese society.

Generally avoiding contact with ordinary citizens, they have responded to economic and political developments conducive to racketeering, gaining access to powerful businessmen and politicians. They control areas of the sport and entertainment worlds, they are involved in land-sharking and debt-collecting, and unless gang wars are raging, their relationship with the police is, in the Japanese diplomat's favourite phrase, one of peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding.

They show great ingenuity in fitting into Japan's tightly ordered society, they know their business and they pursue it ruthlessly. Corporate links with organised crime are not likely to be changed much by a few resignations and fines. Organised crime is, like many other things in Japan, superbly well organised and it will not be wiped out without profound changes to the entire society.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

JACOBIAN

(a) A functional determinant: a technique for solving many linear equations, many unknowns. The eponym of K. G. J. Jacobi, 1804-51. The designation was introduced by Professor Sylvester, who developed their properties and gave numerous applications to them in higher algebra; also in curves and surfaces.

SNIFTING VALVE

(b) When the regulator is closed to shut off steam for coasting or stopping, the action of the pistons if let run would empty the superheater tubes and lead to dangerous overheating. The snifting valve(s) allow air to be drawn in to prevent this. They are often to be seen just behind the chimney of a steam train. They make a distinctive pop when the regulator is opened to start from rest.

ANADEM

(c) A wreath for the head, usually of flowers, as worn by Attic maidens. A chaplet or garland. From the Ancient Greek. Shelley. 1821: "Another clipt her profuse locks and threw the wreath upon him like an anadem."

PALL RINGS

(b) Distillation is the process of separating volatile (light) from heavy components in a mixture. Heating and pumping into a hollow column will achieve much, but some heavy will be carried up and vice versa. The answer is to provide surfaces on which the heavy will condense and the light evaporate. Pall Rings, like large napkin rings, do this. They are packed into the column.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Rxg2+! 2 Rxg2 (2 Kxg2 Qxh3+ also leads to a swift mate) 2 ... Qxh3+ 3 Kg1 Qh1+ 4 Kf2 Bh4+ and White's cause is hopeless.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Where food comes second

Two Fat Ladies
BBC2, 8.30pm

The most famous sidecar in television after Wallace and Gromit's rolls up once more to disgorge the *Two Fat Ladies* — Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright return for a second series of food and fruity accents. The appeal of these women has little to do with Delia Smith because the recipes are secondary to their commentary and characters, both of which are overblown, outrageous and redoubtably English. In the first programme, the duo cater for a reception party at the Brazilian Embassy. Jennifer, who spent some time in Portugal, gets to practise her Portuguese and subjects us to a bit of Carmen Miranda ("I sound like that woman on Clive James") while offering tips on how to pick up men at parties ("lower your voice"). For those who care, the Ambassador served his guests Portuguese fish cakes, blinis, bean fritters and liver stuffed with prunes wrapped in bacon.

Wild Tales from National Geographic
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Something of a curiosity for us Brits brought up on scientific nature programmes. The first of these wildlife films, sponsored by the famous American journal *National Geographic*, is more like a cross between a 1950s Disney nature film and a slapstick, black-humoured comedy. For a kick-off, tonight's presenter is Leslie Nielsen, he of the *Naked Gun* spoofs, who is required to reel off as many jokes as he does facts. The premise of the film is that American gardens are not havens of peace and tranquillity, but killing fields where "pesky little critters" wage life and death battles regardless of the endeavours of the human caretakers. Sound effects and all manner of photographic trickery have been added to enhance the drama, which amounts to an enjoyable, if flashy, multicoloured vision. Come back, David Attenborough, all is forgiven.

Equinox
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Man is a resourceful beast. In the campaign to nullify the threat of icebergs he has tried shooting them, dropping bombs on them and, in desperation, covering them in black paint so as to absorb the sun's warmth. All attempts at destruction have failed. Instead he has settled for towing them clear of all shipping and oil platforms and just generally keeping out of their way. In this comprehensive profile of the iceberg and man's relationship to it, a dire message is conveyed. Increasing numbers of icebergs are the most tangible evidence we have of global warming. As more of them break off from the Greenland glacier to drift down to the North Sea it is very likely they will divert the warming Gulf Stream current southwards towards Spain, thus plunging northern Europe into a second Ice Age.



Clarissa and Jennifer (BBC2, 8.30pm)

Picture This
BBC2, 9.30pm

Beachy Head occupies a strange position in the English psyche. It is a place associated with both extreme beauty and extreme misery. The high chalk cliffs that drop away dramatically to the sea have proved a magnet for artists, poets, tourists and suicides alike. In this paean to the beauty spot, made by the first-time director Zimena Percival, full use is made of sweeping landscapes and picture postcard views. Interspersed with shots of the cliffs and the tourist shop are chats from a couple who have just moved into the lighthouse that teeters on the edge of the cliff, the landlords who double as Samaritans in the local pub and the ever-busy coastguards. **Frances Lass**

RADIO CHOICE

How to Beat Sir Humphrey
Radio 4, 8.45am

The *Yes Minister* comedy classics are among a very few television series to have spawned spin-offs that maintained the high standard of the original. The reheating of *Yes, Prime Minister* in the early summer on television, one of the more justified repeats given that it coincided with the Blair succession, has presumably inspired this three-part reading of the book by Antony Jay whose full title is *How To Beat Sir Humphrey: Every Citizen's Guide to Fighting Officialdom*. If it is not quite that, it can certainly claim to offer the most vital ingredient in tackling town halls, which is a sense of humour. The reader for this series is Derek Fowlds, who played Bernard, the somewhat dim private secretary, in both of the television series.

Woman's Hour
Radio 4, 10.30am

A reader writes to say that I never mention *Woman's Hour* and to ask if this is because I am known to want the programme abolished. Well, I did once write in *The Times* that a programme aimed at women was surely outmoded, only to have several hundred women write to explain that I was wrong. But no hard feelings and to prove it here is a mention of the show at the start of a very strong week. There is a new serial, Anita Mason's *Angel*, which is being read by the delightful Barbara Flynn. And, today, there is an interview between Jenni Murray and Andrea Dworkin, the American feminist, whom the BBC publicity describes as "controversial" twice in one sentence. Wow, that really is controversial. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** Live Music Update **8.40** Andy Kershaw. Includes Rachid Taha in session **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Malcolm Laycock with Big Band Era and Dance Band Days **9.00** Big Band Special **9.30** Hayes Over Britain **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine with Brian Hayes **12.00** Midday with Paul Lewis **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Football Legends: Jack Charlton **8.00** David Mellor's Football Forum. The soccer discussion this week comes from Barnsley **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours with Linda McDermott and Tim Grundy **2.00am** Up All Night **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Nick Abbot **7.00am** Russ and Jono's Breakfast Experience **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00 (FM)** Robin Banks **(AM)** Nicky Horne **7.00 (FM)** Paul Coyte **(AM)** Caimin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Paradox **7.30** Omnibus **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf: The Portrait of a Lady **8.30** The Vintage Chart Show **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.10** Pause for Thought **9.15** Informational; Question Time **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Ends of the World **10.30** BBC English: Britain Now **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Jazzmatazz **1.00** News; News in German (648 only) **1.05** World Business Report **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Sports Roundup **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Chill Out **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Roundup **4.15** On Your Behalf **4.30** Pop the Question **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Seven Days; News in German (648 only) **6.45** Sports Roundup **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Brain of Britain **8.00** News **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Pause for Thought **8.30** Multitrack Hit List **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Dreams of Leaving: The Story of Human Migration **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** The World Today **11.45** Sports Roundup **12.00** News **12.05am** Outlook **12.30** Multitrack Hit List **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** See It My Way **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Seven Days **2.45** Home is Where the Hatred Is **3.00** Newsday **3.30** On Screen **4.00** News **4.05** World Business Report **4.15** Sports Roundup **4.30** Europe Today **5.00** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly. Includes the Classic Masterpiece and Hall of Fame Hour **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto: Jascha Heifetz, violin, Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Fritz Reiner. Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Pinchas Zukerman, viola, Marc Neikrug, piano. Brahms (Viola Sonata in F minor) **8.00** Evening Concert. Haydn (Concerto for Two Horns in E flat); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat); Boccherini (Guitar Quintet No 3 in B flat); Mozart (Symphony No 36 in C) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Wagner (Dawn and Siegfried's Rhine Journey, Götterdämmerung); Debussy (Estampes); Gabrieli (Dulcis Jesu a 20); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1); Grainger (Handel in the Strand); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C sharp minor, Moonlight)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Grieg (Lyric Pieces); Mozart (Der Vogelfänger bin Ich Ja, Die Zauberflöte); Glazunov (Poeme Lyrique), Chabrier (Suite Pastorale)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mark Rowlinson. Includes Purcell (Rejoice in the Lord Alway); Glinka (Overture: Ruslan and Ludmilla); Schumann (Piano Trio No 1 in D minor)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Schoenberg, Berg and Webern (Sounding the Century)
1.00pm News; From St John's. A concert given in 1996 by Felicity Lott, soprano, and Roger Vignoles, piano. Includes Britten (On This Island); Poulenc (Airs Chantes: La Grenouillere; La Courte Paille); Britten (Oft in the Stilly Night; The Last Rose of Summer); Le roi s'en va-t-en Chasse; La Belle est au Jardin D'Amour; Fileuse; Quand J'Etais Chez Mon Père) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Tippett (Ritual Dances (The Midsummer Marriage; Piano Concerto), under George Hurst, Benjamin Firth, piano. Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor); Sibelius (Valse Triste), under Ola Schmidt
4.00 Music Matters, with Ivan Hewett (r)
4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Sharp
5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty is joined by John Williams to discuss the music of Leo Brouwer
7.30 Solti Resounding. Humphrey Carpenter presents an evening in celebration of the conductor Sir Georg Solti who died on September 5. Includes Glinka (Overture, Russian and Ludmilla) performed by the London Symphony Orchestra **7.40** Budapest and Back Again. Humphrey Carpenter charts Solti's long career **8.00** Mahler (Symphony No 5, second movement) performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra **8.15** The Wizard of Opera. John Tusa explores Solti's operatic work **8.45** Richard Strauss (Trio and Closing Duet from Der Rosenkavalier) performed by Helen Donath, soprano, Regine Crespin, soprano, and Yvonne Minton, mezzo **9.00** The Fastest Baton in the West. Reflections from the conductor and his friends **9.20** Bartok (Concerto for Orchestra) performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra **10.20** The Essential Solti. Richard Osborne, Michael Oliver and Jonathan Swain discuss Solti's legacy **10.40** Wagner (Immolation Scene, Gotterdammerung) performed by Birgit Nilsson, soprano, and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra
11.15 Postscript. Lawrence Norfolk, the author of *Lempriere's Dictionary* and *The Pope's Rhinoceros*, introduces his latest book
11.30 Composer of the Week: Ildebrando Pizzetti (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather begins a week-long celebration of Antonio Carlos Jobim
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.45** How to Beat Sir Humphrey. See Choice (1/3) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with the *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 (FM) News; Battling with the Past. Ronald Hutton chairs the light-hearted historical game
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. See Choice
11.30 Money Box Live. Personal finance news introduced by Vincent Duggleby
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Round Britain Quiz, with Nick Clarke. South of England take on Scotland in the cryptic quiz show **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One. Introduced by Nick Clarke at the Labour Party conference in Brighton and James Cox in London
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Broad Canvasses. A drama by Nigel Baldwin. With Sue Johnston, Martin Troakes and Antony O'Donnell (2/3) (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker charts the career of the young Scottish composer James MacMillan, as a festival dedicated to his work opens
4.45 Short Story: My Son. Written by Jane Rawlinson and read by Jenny Agutter
5.00 PM. Presented by Chris Lowe **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 News Quiz Simon Hoggart is in the chair and the panellists includes Francis Wheen, Jeremy Hardy and the *Times* columnist Alan Coren
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Points of Reference. A look at the points of the compass and what they mean to us. Written and presented by Simon Armitage, with contributions from Charles Burton, Tracey Edwards, Ian McCaskill, Patrick Moore, Trevor Mouncy, Francis Spufford and Rupert Wilkinson (2/4) (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: The House of Doctor Dee. Written by Peter Ackroyd and dramatised by Alan Drury. A man inherits a house with dark and mysterious secrets. With Philip Glenister and Nigel Anthony (r)
9.15 No Man is an Island. Fergal Keane visits Vietnam to chart the progress of the new Asia (3/4) (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Loitering with Intent. Anna Massey reads Muriel Spark's comic novel (6/10)
11.00 Being American. Simon Parkes looks at the American identity (r)
11.30 Bertie and the Crime of Passion, by Peter Lovesey. With Robert Lang and Jane Lapotaire (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Light in August, by William Faulkner (6/12)
12.48 (LW) Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Now they are history, they can be revised



John Diamond

It may be that there are political seers so gifted that a year ago they already had money on a Labour victory of the outlandish proportions that we saw in May. It may even be that there are those visionaries, other than William Hague's mum, who had picked as the future leader of the party of Disraeli and Macmillan, a lad who, with his clumsy pose-striking and tricky girlfriend problems, will surely go down in history as politics' own Adrian Mole.

But there is nobody who could have predicted the extent to which the Conservative Party would disappear off the political map in the terms measured by television's response to cartographical change.

Look back at the fall of Thatcher and you will see it documented on television in a dozen ways, from odd episodes of *Panorama* to lavish series in which the Baroness herself set history straight. Thirty years on, Wilson and his years still get the odd documentary and there's no doubt that when Callaghan goes to the *other* other place we will be treated to an orgy of televisual reminiscences of the dreadful 1970s.

And what does John Major get? A walk-on part in Alan Clark's BBC history of the Conservatives and, last night, **Bye Bye Blues**, the first of a two-parter on Channel 4 in which the coming of John Major was used as a political synonym for the ending of Conservatism.

You can almost see the editorial meetings at the various channels, can't you? "I suppose we ought to do something analytical about the fall of the Tories." "Do we have to?" "Well it *is* the sort of thing we are meant to do, isn't it?" "Can't we just wait a few weeks then everyone will have forgotten; you know: 'what's his *name*, grey *hair*, *funny* top lip, you know the one'."

But no: they have to do it, and here was Andrew Rawnsley trying to give some form to a political administration noted only for its formlessness. What, asked Rawnsley, was Majorism? "It doesn't exist" harrumphed Alistair Macalpine. "Perhaps one day a slang dictionary will have it for confusion, lack of philosophy, despair."

Which was cruel of him but hardly any less cruel than those who had ostensibly come to praise Major. It was one of those political programmes in which politicians turn up to talk honestly after the event while trying to give the impression that alone among their colleagues honesty is their natural estate and that if you'd asked them the same questions while the event was still current they'd have given you the same candid answers.

Ken Clarke remembered that, now he came to think of it, he never actually repeated the year-on-year tax-cutting promise himself, because he didn't like promising things which he might not be able to deliver. And since you asked her, well, Edwina Currie was bravely willing to admit that in truth she was never a fan of the Double Whammy advertising campaign, which she thought insulted the voters' intelligence.

Clarke popped back again to chuckle that he remembers saying to a friend, just after Black Wednesday, that it was the first time he'd been in a Government without an economic policy. He gave the impression that if you'd pushed him at the time he would have said exactly the same thing in the House.

In fact, as the former ministers had it, the whole thing seemed a bit of a giggle. Kelvin MacKenzie, late of the *Sun*'s editorial chair, recalled Major phoning him up to ask what sort of whipping the government would get when it pulled out of the EMU. "I have a large bucket of shit on my desk, Prime Minister," MacKenzie told him. "And we're going to pour it all over you." "Oh, you are a wag," replied the Prime Minister.

To complain that the programme was no more than a series of anecdotes is hardly a real complaint: the one thing it demonstrated was that as far as most of its members were concerned, the last government was no more than a series of anecdotes. In television terms the trouble with anecdotes is that they don't usually have pictures to go with them. My instinct would have been to put Rawnsley on screen more often — he's a good-looking lad, after all — but instead the producers decided to establish a new television convention: hands at the dinner table.

Thus the story of how the People's Charter was devised at a Westminster curry house was accompanied by a series of shots of white shirt-cuffed arms and hands doing things with popodoms and dhal while other hands carefully scratched out the word "contract" on the back of an envelope and replaced in with "charter". Later, Andrew Neil told a story of Major meeting a few journalists at an English restaurant to slip them the glad word on some economic cock-up or other. This was accompanied by the same hands doing things with bits of salad while a pair of grey-suited arms at one end of the table crashed around in time to the words Neil remembered Major had spoken.

The programme climaxed with a series of anecdotes in which it became apparent that the man responsible for the fall of Major was the unfortunate Norman Lamont, who allowed everyone to say what they wanted about him by not appearing on the programme at all, not even represented by a set of chubby arms at a restaurant table having his Access card handed back to him.

The first half of the two-parter took us, more or less, up to the 1992 election win. Next week we're promised the fun of Back to Basics — in which, no doubt, any number of honest former cabinet ministers will tell us how, if only we'd asked, they would have told us about their mistresses all along.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (21558)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98518523)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2456320)
9.30 Style Challenge (1294320)
9.55 Kilroy (T) (5243981)
10.35 Change That Mark Curry is in ambridge (1333707)
11.00 News (T) **Regional News** and weather (4605875)
11.05 Labour Party Conference '97 Live coverage from Brighton, including **12.00** News (T) Regional News and weather (6175097)
1.00pm News (T) and weather (23875)
1.30 Regional News (T) and weather (17253875)
1.40 The Weather Show Weather stories of topical interest (87118788)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (77996368)
2.10 Quincy Forensic drama, starring Jack Klugman (r) (1948977)
3.00 Through the Keyhole (7617436)
3.30 Playdays (8922523) **3.50** Enchanted Lands (7194436) **4.00** Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes (2438639) **4.15** Noah's Island (4435184) **4.40** Goosebumps (6248639) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9832788) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (5721184)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (927542)
6.00 News (T) and weather (185)
6.30 Regional News (417)
7.00 This is Your Life Introduced by Michael Aspel (T) (1691)
7.30 Here and Now An investigation into the case of Marty McGartland, a former police agent who infiltrated the IRA (T) (829)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (7639)
8.30 A Prince Among Men Gary plans to launch a range of cakes based on Lisel's family recipes (T) (6146)
9.00 News (T) and weather (8726)
9.30 Bloomin' Marvellous Jack turns his hand to DIY and tries to decorate the nursery (T) (96146)
10.00 Panorama: Hard Labour On the issue of single parents, a look at controversial models from America being studied by the Government promoting work not welfare (T) (205252)
10.40 Full Circle with Michael Palin The genial traveller finds Vietnam a land of extraordinary war memories (r) (T) (739894)
11.35 Film '97 with Barry Norman Reviews of *Volcano*, a disaster film set in the urban sprawl of LA starring Tommy Lee Jones, and *Head Above Water*, a black comedy of murder and mayhem with Cameron Diaz and Harvey Keitel. He also interviews Gary Oldman about his acclaimed directorial debut, *Nil By Mouth* (T) (808784)
12.05am Seven Minutes (1989) Directed by and starring Klaus Maria Brandauer. A clock-maker horrified at the excesses of the Nazi regime plans to assassinate Hitler. With Brian Dennehy, Rebecca Miller and Nigel le Vaillant (8180699)
1.35 Weather (2515108)

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BBC2

6.00am O U: Surviving the Exam (T) (4233523) **6.25** Children First (T) Prodigies (T) (5123558)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (4190078) **7.30** Smurfs (6281455) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (5286233) **8.20** Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams (r) (3046900) **8.35** Teletubbies (1868523) **9.00** Cartoon (4698271)
9.10 Spanish Globo (2286691) **9.15** Clementine (4684078) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (T) (9385894) **9.45** Storytime (9380349) **10.00** Teletubbies (91338) **10.30** Words and Pictures (3592252) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3597707) **11.00** Look and Read (2838417) **11.20** Zig Zag (9803894) **11.40** Landmarks (7192894) **12.00** Job Bank (7915788) **12.10pm** Job Bank (7937900) **12.20** Showcase (6177455)
12.30 Working Lunch (80232) **1.00** The Greedysaurus Gang (r) (73269271) **1.05** Hairy Jeremy (r) (73268542)
1.10 The Countryside Hour New series: the Isles of Scilly (5888964) **2.10** News (T) (32645146)
2.15 Labour Party Conference '97 Includes a debate on the economy and a speech by Gordon Brown (284788)
3.55 News (T) (6791252) **4.00** Ready, Steady, Cook (558) **4.30** Going, Going, Gone (6429523) **4.55** Esther: David Essex (r) (4647374) **5.30** Today's the Day (894)
6.00 Battlestar Galactica (r) (762349)
6.45 Conference Talk (987981)
7.30 Oil on Canvas Artists Ben Johnson and Patrick Hughes treat perspective in very different ways (T) (271)
8.00 Decisive Weapons The history of the U-boat (T) (8981)
8.30 Two Fat Ladies The ladies prepare canapés at the Brazilian Embassy (T) (4788)
9.00 Absolutely Fabulous (r) (T) (6368)



Beachy Head lighthouse (9.30pm)

9.30 Picture This A portrait of Beachy Head which depicts a thriving community in spite of its reputation as a suicide hot-spot (T) (94788)
10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks Billy Bragg, Neil Morrissey, Richard Fairbrass and Sarah Blackwood join question-master Mark Lamarr and team captains Sean Hughes and Phill Jupitus for another round of the madcap pop quiz (88639)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (272184) **11.15** Jonathan Miller's Opera Works: recitative (T) (217417) **12.00** Weather **12.05am** Duckman (3113769)
12.30 O U: Swedish Science (46189) **1.00** Humanity and the Scaffold (36363) **1.30** Smithson and Serra (75740) **2.00** Teaching Today (29721) **4.00** Italia 2000 (92009) **4.30** Royal Institute Discourse (84818) **5.30** So You Want to Work in Social Care? (93585)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7006639)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (2452504)
9.55 Regional News (T) (1919165)
10.00 The Time, the Place (95504)
10.30 This Morning (T) (18727388)
12.25 Regional News (6172900)
12.30 News and weather (T) (9352146)
12.55 High Road (T) (3349517) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (76239246)
1.50 Father Came Too (1964) starring Stanley Baxter, Sally Smith and James Robertson Justice. A comedy about newlyweds who buy a derelict cottage in a vain attempt to escape the wife's domineering father. Directed by Peter Graham Scott (6906639)
3.20 News (T) (4691271)
3.25 Regional News (4690542)
3.30 Tots TV (r) (1357788) **3.40** The Slow Norris (7183320) **3.50** Wolves, Witches and Giants (1351504) **4.05** Sooty and Co (T) (4417788) **4.25** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (T) (4426436) **4.50** How 2 (T) (6222691)
5.10 We Are Seven A serial about the trials and tribulations of 1930s village life (3278739)
5.10 WALES: Animal Country (3278739)
5.40 News (T) and weather (160320)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (685417)
6.25 Weather (770913)
6.30 The West Tonight (30)
6.30 WALES: Wales Tonight (30)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (9287)
7.30 Coronation Street Alma visits Don and Maureen has second thoughts about her marriage to Fred (T) (487)
8.00 World in Action Donal McIntyre goes undercover to infiltrate a multimillion-pound marriage scam (T) (2707)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich Game show (T) (4542)



Simone Bendix as Liza (9.00pm)

9.00 Noah's Ark: Healing Touch The owner of a sick horse turns out to be Tom's rival for Clare's romantic feelings. With Anton Rodgers, Peter Wingfield and Angela Thorne (T) (2813)
10.00 News (T) and weather (75165)
10.30 Regional News (656252)
10.40 Nash Bridges Nash becomes embroiled in a train heist (T) (724962)
11.40 Highlander (779287)
12.40am Nationwide Football League Extra (8402634)
1.40 The War of the Worlds (r) (2102301)
2.35 Rockmania (r) (8752856)
3.30 God's Gift (r) (2819363)
4.25 Curtis Calls (29568568)
4.35 World in Action (r) (T) (31133092)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (20214)
5.30 News (80011)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9380165)
1.50 Blue Heelers (3294610)
2.50-3.20 High Road (6871639)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2269320)
6.25 Central News (693436)
6.55-7.00 Debthusters: Lifeline (726523)
11.40 Swift Justice (957523)
12.35am Football Extra (8403363)
1.35 Late and Loud (3409382)
2.40 Film: Nor the Moon by Night (976214)
4.15 Central Jobfinder '97 (4012498)
5.20 Asian Eye (1819634)

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (9360165)
1.25 High Road (44937336)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (3382829)
2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (6671639)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2269320)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (19097)
10.30 Westcountry News (847504)
10.45 Nash Bridges (938964)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (956894)

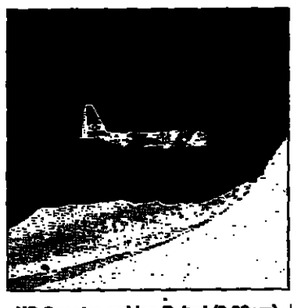
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (9360165)
1.50 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (1643558)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (3447702)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2269320)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (233)
6.30-7.00 A Tale of Four Favourite Towns (813)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (647504)
10.45 Nash Bridges (723233)
11.40 The Pier (342707)
12.10 The Loop (3120059)
5.00 Freescreen (20214)

As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9360165)
1.50 Homemaker (77075829)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (8906891)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2269320)
6.23 Anglia Weather (958900)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (202542)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (493356)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (647504)
10.45 Backstage (693542)
11.15 Nash Bridges (851356)
12.10am Weekly World News (3120059)

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (46726) **9.00 Ysgolion** (695813) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (5829) **12.00 Right to Reply** (72078) **12.30pm Montel Williams** (92320) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (83533349) **1.15 Miffi** (83521504) **1.30 Shipbuilder** (87138542) **1.35 Stroke** (17278184) **1.45 Film: Down to the Sea in Ships** (24843981) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (726) **4.30 Garden Party** (610) **5.00 5 Pump** (5630542) **5.15 Ffeil** (9837233) **5.30 Countdown** (962) **6.00 Newyddion** (787243) **6.10 Heno** (760981) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (348894) **7.25 Taro Naw** (390691) **8.00 Eric** (4879) **8.30 Newyddion** (2184) **9.00 Cutting Edge** (8405) **10.00 Sgorio** (3542) **11.00 Whose Line is it Anyway?** (6981) **11.30 The American Football Big Match** (773233) **12.45am-1.45 Infamous Addresses** (328924)

CHANNEL 4

5.55 am Sesame Street (41368)
7.00 The Big Breakfast A fifth birthday special (46726)
9.00 Schools: English Programme (T) (2553287) **9.25** Schools at Work (2209542) **9.30** Geography Junction (T) (9370962) **9.45** Book Box (T) (9375417) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (7484542) **10.15** Rai-a-Tat-Tat (7474165) **10.30** Place and People (T) (8834829) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (1588146) **11.00** Living and Growing (T) (9894146) **11.15** The Mix (T) (9817079)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier Chargrilled squid with aubergine; walnut marmalade (T) (5829)
12.00 Sesame Street (72078)
12.30pm The Hunted (1952, b/w) starring Dirk Bogarde as a killer on the run with a six-year-old hostage. Directed by Charles Crichton (T) (64394207)
2.05 Augusta and the Mouse Hungarian animation (32648233)
2.10 The Man Between (1953, b/w) A Cold War espionage thriller starring James Mason and and Claire Bloom, directed by Carol Reed (919962)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (726) **4.30** Countdown (T) (6414691) **4.55** Montel Williams (T) (6342702)
5.30 It's a Dog's World (1/2) (r) (T) (962)
6.00 Home Improvement Tim tries to make sure nothing or no one interrupts his viewing the Superbowl (T) (875)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (455)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (773875)
7.50 Music of the Millennium George Melly's favourite piece (869097)
8.00 Wild Tales from National Geographic: Savage Garden Leslie Nielsen presents this look at the dangers awaiting unsuspecting animals in the gardens of America (1/6) (T) (8261)



US Coastguard Ice Patrol (9.00pm)

9.00 Equinox: The Iceberg Cometh A documentary charting the fraught relationship between man and icebergs (T) (8405)
10.00 NYPD Blue Simone and Sipowicz investigate the death of a Russian woman whose body was discovered by refuse collectors (T) (845894)
10.55 Seven Sins Felicity Diamond glories in her delight at being a "greedy" — the new word for bisexuals — and resents the common assumption that all bisexuals are promiscuous (T) (161233)
11.25 The American Football Big Match (462455)
12.45 am Trans World Sport (328924)
1.45 Football Italia AC Milan v Vicenza (r) (30218932)
4.00 Schools: History in Action (556295) **5.45** Good Health (5300653)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (7808436)
7.30 Milkshake (1546448) **7.35** USA High (r) (7966177) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (1819879)
8.30 WideWorld Documentary series about business, focusing on companies who must observe government controls and international treaties (14/15) (6764720)
9.00 Espresso (7340981) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (6521436) **10.30** Attractions (r) (2364964)
11.00 Laeza Chat show (1968542) **11.50** Double Espresso (69360558)
12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8669356)
12.30pm Family Affairs (r) (T) (9477436)
1.00 5 News (85614558) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (8143610) **2.00** 5's Company (8114271)
3.30 Irreconcilable Differences (1984) with Ryan O'Neal, Shelley Long, Drew Barrymore and Sharon Stone. A comedy about a couple who are sued for "divorce" by their ten-year-old daughter. Directed by Charles Shyer (780225)
5.30 Whittle A new series of the audience-participation quiz show (T) (9693813)
6.00 100 Per Cent (9690726)
6.30 Family Affairs Annie has a new house guest (T) (9681078)
7.00 Oasis: Mad for It Part three of the documentary about the band looks at Liam and Noel's musical influences (8663349)
7.30 The Dragon's Tale: Marshes of Bharaptur A wildlife documentary about an artificial lake in India (T) (9670962)
8.00 Hot Property A couple with four children are looking for a larger property in Shropshire (T) (8672097)
8.30 5 News (T) (8651504)



Waterman and Thaw (9.00pm)

9.00 The Sweeney Classic Flying Squad drama series starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (3372423)
10.00 Wing and a Prayer Yasmin and Arlington defend a policeman. With Rita Wolf and Sean Arnold (T) (1235900)
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show (1060894)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (4461900)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb (34649653)
3.45 Asian Football Show (6854498)
4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (T) (6196382)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7305818)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see Vision, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (592766) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (91829) **10.00** Another World (70707) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (83271) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (33691) **1.00pm** Geraldo (59639) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (56839) **3.00** Jenny Jones (59165) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (61900) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5436) **6.00** The Live 6 Show (1728) **6.30** Married...with Children (2078) **7.00** The Simpsons (6165) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1982) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (81252) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (76788) **10.00** Sliders (71675) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (71436) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (64672) **1.00am** Long Play (2530572)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Ernest Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man (1962) (72587417) **8.25 Seasons of the Heart** (1993) (16524768) **10.10 Father of the Bride Part II** (1995) (21929184) **12.00 The Long Ride Home** (1984) (583900) **1.45pm Sahara** (1983) (93259707) **3.30 Breaking Away** (1979) (8076713) **5.15 Seasons of the Heart** (1993) (89293542) **7.00 Father of the Bride Part II** (1995) (60320) **9.00 Murderous Intent** (1995) (86707) **11.00 From Dusk Till Dawn** (1996) (283981) **12.50am In Pursuit of Honour** (1995) (750721) **2.40 Motorcycle Gang** (1994) (4476653) **4.05 Roadracers** (1994) (661566)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Son of Robin Hood (1959) (3116177) **7.25 A Troll in Central Park** (1994) (1304875) **8.45 The Brasher Doubloon** (1947) (1063097) **10.00 My Uncle: The Alien** (1996) (31803146) **11.50 The Greatest Story Ever Told** (1965) (96539707) **3.00pm The Son of Robin Hood** (1989) (9849879) **4.25 Runaway Express** (1992) (1568358) **5.50 Man of the House** (1995) (74832374) **7.30 El Features** (7900) **8.00 Back to the Future Part II** (1989) (85078) **10.00 Virtuosity** (1995) (229523) **11.50 A Good Man in Africa** (1994) (863436) **1.25am Interview with the Vampire** (1994) (25030450) **3.30 Student Affairs** (1988) (589634) **5.05 Peter-No-Tail** (1983) (4127126)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm What Happened to Santiago? (1989) (9356829) **6.00 Caught in the Draft** (1941) (3554233) **8.00 The Hostage Tower** (1980) (3566078) **10.00 Death Hunt** (1981) (2296417) **11.40 Captive Hearts** (1987) (6230271) **1.25am Lady in Cement** (1968) (4690276) **3.00 No Sex Please, We're British!** (1973) (5329301)

TNT

8.00pm The Philadelphia Story (1940) (37541349) **11.00 Poltergeist** (1982) (80249455) **1.00am Come** (1978) (80207479) **3.00 Dark of the Sun** (1968) (29643363) **5.00 Close**

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Futbol Mundial (19702) **7.30** Sports Unlimited (97798) **8.30** World Sport Special (20252) **9.00** Racing News (11504) **9.30** Aerobics (57894) **10.00** Football Special (67504) **11.30** Futbol Mundial (86233) **12.00** Aerobics (31368) **12.30pm** Watersports World (54436) **1.30** Football Special (17233) **3.00** Spanish Primera Liga (96558) **5.00** Watersports World (3610) **6.00** Sports Centre (9500) **6.30** Football League Review (7392) **7.00** How the Ryder Cup Was Won (8245223) **10.00** Sports Centre (32097) **10.30** Watersports World (12639) **11.30** Horse of the Year Show (39368) **12.00** Sports Centre (63382) **12.30am** How the Ryder Cup Was Won (2152789) **3.30** Sports Centre (88672) **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style (8532813) **7.30** Windsurfing: World Tour (5511320) **8.00** Racing News (5611894) **8.30** Ryder Cup Head-to-Head (9222851) **12.00** Football League Review (2785287) **1.30pm** Gaelic Games (5993894) **2.30** Tennis: Grand Slam Cup (9789504) **5.30** Football League Review (2582418) **6.00** Windsurfing: World Tour (4281441) **6.30** V-Max (3118843) **7.00** Sports Centre (9896894) **7.30** World Motor Sport (7933469) **10.30** Horse of the Year Show (5604558) **11.00** Football League Review (7056542) **11.30** Showjumping: Amoco Cup (7018078) **12.30am** Hockey: World Junior Men's Championship (5704160) **2.30** Sports Centre (5839059) **3.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Sport Special (20105146) **12.30** Super League Premiership Final (96998894) **3.30** NFL: Dallas v Chicago (98629320) **7.00** Fishing Texas (91418207) **7.30** Gone Fishing (31803836) **8.00** Hockey: World Junior Men's Championship (37544435) **10.00** Big League Classics (88097267) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (14185) **8.00** Tour of Spain (72436) **9.30** Motorcycling: Indonesian Grand Prix (70639) **11.00** IndyCar — Marlboro 500 (936707) **1.30pm** Volleyball: Women's European Championships (93829) **3.30** World Cup Qualifying Rounds (16813) **5.30** Truck Racing (4455) **6.00** Offroad Magazine (1368) **6.30** Speedworld Magazine (20813) **8.00** Cycling: Nations Open — Live (820707) **11.00** Eurogoals (93558) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Rentaghost (4720271) **7.25** Neighbours (9645829) **8.00** Crossroads (90435-42) **8.25** EastEnders (3561271) **8.00** The Bill (5776558) **9.30** Howards' Way (4953707) **10.00** In Loving Memory (1333981) **10.30** The Sullivans (6692542) **11.00** Kinsey (53944252) **12.05pm** Crossroads (72972639) **12.30** Neighbours (49575523) **1.00** EastEnders (2465405) **1.35** High and Dry (5580287) **2.15** Gingerbread Girl (8042146) **2.50** Are You Being Served? (2664271) **3.30** The Bill (4553691) **4.00** Casualty (11360165) **5.05** EastEnders (1650828) **5.40** Bob's Full House (9122146) **6.20** The Two Ronnies (4844097) **7.20** Dr Who (9059542) **7.50** Home to Roost (7989469) **8.20** Victoria Wood (8864523) **9.00** The Bill (2222558) **9.30** Stay Lucky (55460823) **10.35** Ironside: Five Days from Home (80685962) **12.30am** Sporting Image (29870300) **1.00 FILM: We Dive at Dawn** (12484650) **2.30** Shopping (6691009)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am El Uncut (1365374) **6.30** Beadle's About (5348146) **7.00** Coronation St (8099697) **7.30** Families (8018726) **8.00** Surprise Surprise (5863962) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (5080982) **10.00** Mission Impossible (8007610) **11.00** Red Letter Day (8094146) **12.00** Coronation St (5080349) **12.30pm** Families (1621368) **1.00** Blind Date (1618525) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (6361455) **3.00** Beadle's About (8617900) **3.30** Surgical Spirit (7515900) **4.00** Mission Impossible (9010418) **5.00** Red Letter Day (8808252) **6.00** Families (7511184) **6.30** Coronation St (7502436) **7.00** Blind Date (7377320) **8.00** Mission Impossible (7393368) **9.00** Coronation St (2166962) **9.30** The Comedians (1601504) **10.00** Night Thriller (7376691) **11.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus (80707) **6.30** Lamb Chop's Play-Along (60946) **7.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (32184) **7.30** Quack Pack (11691) **8.00** Dinosaurs (54233) **8.30** Bonkers (53504) **9.00** Gummi Bears (77184) **9.30** Groundling Marsh (80146) **10.00** Sesame Street (17875) **11.00** Hunny Pot (5703900) **11.15** Rosie and Jim (4945962) **11.40** Sing Me a Story (6838243) **12.00** Big Garage (7380542) **12.45pm** The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (25803320) **1.00** Sesame Street (89417) **2.00** Amazing Animals (4065) **2.30** Care Bears (8813) **3.00** Tale Spin (2900) **3.30** Goof Troop (3558) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (9185) **4.30** Aladdin (5349) **5.00** Gargoyles (1417) **5.30** Dinosaurs (2829) **6.00** Blossom (9542) **6.30** Boy Meets World (9374) **7.00** Home Improvement (4981) **7.30** The Wonder Years (6078) **8.00 FILM: Jungle Book** (1995) (56504) **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Daffy (6143726) **8.30** Billy the Cat (2248558) **7.00** Pinocchio (4865287) **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo (47018894) **8.00** Beetleborgs (8313639) **8.30** Masked Rider (9305610) **9.00** Magic Box (8396962) **9.30** Dudley the Dragon (6611639) **10.00** Inspector Gadget (2158610) **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats (8392146) **11.00** Sweet Valley High (4710542) **12.00** Ace Ventura (8818726) **12.30pm** Casper (6815455) **1.00** The Tick (4894558) **1.30** Iron Man (6814726) **2.00** Fantastic Four (9886078) **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo (1319271) **3.00** Beetleborgs (9898813) **3.30** Masked Rider (1398788) **4.00** Ace Ventura (1900523) **4.30** Casper (1306707) **5.00** The Tick (9973558) **5.30** X Men (1498287) **6.00** Spiderman (1310900) **6.30** Sweet Valley High (1301252) **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After (86981) **8.30** Bobby's World (60900) **7.00** Spirou (18558) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (24165) **8.00** Batman (97707) **8.30** Bots Master (68078) **9.00** Art Attack (63558) **9.30** Earthworm Jim (98320) **10.00** Gravedale High (98252) **10.30** Flash Gordon (79542) **11.00** Creepy Crawlers (21320) **11.30** Gigantor (39349) **12.00** Gravedale High (60894) **12.30pm** Bots Master (97436) **1.00** Batman (17859) **1.30** Eek the Cat (56707) **2.00** Creepy Crawlers (3838) **2.30** Flash Gordon (42857) **3.00** Sonic (2146) **3.30** Earthworm Jim (9504) **4.00** Dennis the Menace (2638) **4.30** Art Attack (1623) **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (55097) **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters (77148) **7.00** Hey Arnold! (19784) **7.30** Rugrats (27639) **8.00** Doug (29523) **8.30** Country Mouse and City Mouse (28894) **9.00** CBBC (19146) **9.30** CBBC (76504) **10.30** Beber (17558) **11.00** Magic School Bus (83148) **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas (84676) **12.00** Paddington Bear etc (22910) **12.30pm** Portland Bill etc (59252) **1.00** Dr Seuss (98225) **1.30** Little Bear Stories (58529) **2.00** Jim Henson's Animal Show (8165) **2.30** CBBC (6813) **3.00** CBBC (3900) **3.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters/Doug (1558) **4.00** Hey Arnold! (7165) **4.30** Rugrats (3349) **5.00** Sister Sister (9417) **5.30** Sister Sister (3958) **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (7542) **6.30** Kablam! (8894) **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing (6578662) **12.30** Ready or Not (4942691) **1.00** Madison (8342766) **1.30** Sweet Valley High (4941662) **2.00** Saved by the Bell (8043949) **2.30** Swan's Crossing (4876542) **3.00** Ready or Not (9055184) **3.30** No Naked Flames (4751287) **4.00** Saved by the Bell (4867894) **4.30** USs High (4663078) **5.00** Hangtime (8130829) **5.30** Sweet Valley High (4750558) **6.00** Teenage Urban Adventurers (4877271) **6.30** Madison (4683523) **7.00** Hangtime (8047165) **7.30** USs High (4664707) **8.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm The Prisoner (1144320) **9.00** Burning Zone (1154184) **10.00** Tour of Duty (1167271) **11.00 FILM: How Sleep the Brave** (6223729) **1.00am** Burning Zone (7990905) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9774295) **3.00 FILM: The Evil That Men Do** (1253362) **5.00** Planet of the Apes (1020566)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (2981) **7.30** Roseanne (4078) **8.00** Ellen (1829) **8.30** Cybill (7436) **9.00** Cheers (98610) **9.30** Taxi (45788) **10.00** Frasier (30639) **10.30** Alexei Sayle's Stuff (12287) **11.00** In Bed with MaDinner (36405) **11.30** Nightstand (80610) **12.00** Soap (81924) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (22547) **1.00** Entertainment UK (88383) **1.30** Taxi (27740) **2.00** Roseanne (63127) **2.30** In Bed with MaDinner (42634) **3.00** Frasier (74617) **3.30** Alexei Sayle's Stuff (88214) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (8632894) **9.00** Sightings (9725588) **10.00** Space Precinct (8622417) **11.00** Friday the 13th (71661148) **12.00** Sightings (95892296) **1.00am** Twilight Zone (24898618) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (7598653) **2.00** Dark Shadows (7324740) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (7310547) **3.00** Friday the 13th (24631764) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Simply Painting (8684900) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (4851349) **10.00** Garden Club (1331523) **10.30** Room Service (6890184) **11.00** The House (2837436) **11.30** Graham Kerr (2838165) **12.00** Julia Child (6681436) **12.30pm** Hometime (4855185) **1.00** This Old House (2942720) **1.30** New Yankee Workshop (4954436) **2.00** Hammer It Home (6049523) **2.30** Antiques Trail (4656789) **3.00** The Restoration Game (6131569) **3.30** Furniture to Go (4651233) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm History's Turning Points (4670368) **4.30** Fire (4686252) **5.00** Connections 2 by James Burke (8030875) **5.30** Jurassica 2 (4650504) **6.00** Wild Guide (4657417) **6.30** Wild at Heart (4671097) **7.00** Discovery News (6050639) **7.30** History's Turning Points (4660981) **8.00** Ancient Warriors (6132287) **8.30** On the Road Again (6048894) **9.00** Adventures of the Quest (1240558) **10.00** Three Minutes to Impact (1147417) **11.00** Wings Over the World (1792487) **12.00** The Specialists (5101363) **12.30am** Fire (2885672) **1.00** History's Turning Points (8667924) **1.30** Connections 2 by James Burke (9283106) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Giants of the Bushveld (9880894) **7.30** Animal Minds (1307436) **8.00** Monkeys in the Mist (1773320) **9.00** Solo Woman (1793184) **10.00** Explorer (1796271) **11.00** Accordion: Second Wind (4708707) **12.00** Explorer (7801127)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War (7058813) **5.00** The Great Ships (9895165) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (4349746) **7.00** Biography: Josef Mengele (1107146) **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

Win with Prize Time twice an hour.
5.00pm Cross Wits (7891) **5.30** Say the Word (2875) **6.00** Family Fortunes (9788) **6.30** Catchphrase (33688) **7.15** The $64,000



COMPANIES 51
Results to watch for this week

BUSINESS

ROGER BOOTLE 52
The quiet bull market's revolution



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 1997

Flotations threaten to dry up in face of buyers' strike

By Martin Waller

COMPANIES are shunning the stock market despite the FTSE 100's record run, causing a dearth of new share issues. New figures published today will show flotations have raised just £2.5 billion so far this year, excluding demutualisations, compared with £8.09 billion in the first nine months of 1996.

A quarterly report by KPMG Corporate Finance shows that the new issues market threatens to dry up completely, with a virtual "buyers' strike" among the City institutions that would normally be in the market for new shares of small to medium-sized companies.

Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "It's extremely difficult to get anybody to invest in a new issue. We are certainly seeing companies that are thinking twice before embarking on the process of floating."

Instead, those venture capital companies that were looking for an exit from their investments were considering trade sales, or even sales to their rivals. Mr Austin added: "There is a lot of money around in UK corporates, and the venture capitalists have lots of cash. It used to be that no venture capitalist would buy from another, on the grounds that if he was selling, it wasn't worth buying."

His view is shared by those putting together such deals. One corporate financier said: "The new issue market has died. During the summer there was just no interest at all. It just evaporated."

This is itself dissuading corporate financiers and venture capitalists from bringing clients to the market until the appetite of the institutions returns. Many are advising trade sales to companies that themselves have plenty of cash because of the continuing strong economy.

The KPMG figures will show that, excluding debuts on the junior Alternative Investment Market, the total amount raised by companies floating in the third quarter of this year was just £1.3 billion. This compares with £3.13 billion in the same period of 1996.

The investing institutions have lost interest in new issues for a variety of reasons, but mainly because these tend to be smaller companies and shares in these have substantially underperformed their bigger brethren. The FT SmallCap index has risen by just 6.5 per cent since the start of the year. By strong contrast, the FTSE 100 index, including Friday's 160-point rise, was up by almost 29 per cent.

Tesco to cut cover price of women's titles

By Christine Buckley

TESCO is cutting the price of magazines, a move that will be a strong blow to WH Smith, the troubled newsagent and retailer.

The supermarket group yesterday unveiled plans to cut 20 per cent off best-selling titles such as *Bella, That's Life, Eva* and *Take-a-Break* for a month. It said it wanted to trigger more flexible pricing for magazines so it could pass on discounts in the same way as on other goods.

Simon Uwins, commercial director, said: "There are just too many vested interests in the magazine business and this is bad news for customers."

Discounting women's titles is likely to encourage many readers to shun high street and local newsagents in favour of buying their magazines along with the weekly shop.

The discounting is also a fresh development in the battle between supermarkets and suppliers. Last month Tesco was blacklisted by Adidas, the sportswear company, after buying in its goods and selling them on at a 40 per cent discount. Asda recently lost its long fight with drugs companies over pricing.

☐ Tesco has hired Goldman Sachs to find a buyer for Catteau, its French chain. It is pulling out of France after four years of struggling to fend off local competition.

Asda merger talks set to boost store shares

By Martin Barrow

SUPERMARKET shares are expected to rise sharply today amid City hopes of a new wave of takeovers in the sector after yesterday's disclosure by Asda and Safeway that merger talks had been aborted.

Both companies reluctantly called off any further negotiations yesterday, putting an end, at least for the time being, to plans to form Britain's biggest supermarket chain.

Yesterday Safeway, whose chief executive is Colin Smith, and Asda issued a joint statement saying that "very exploratory discussions had taken place in recent months about a possible merger", adding that "these discussions have been discontinued".

Although the companies claim talks were still at an early stage, enough work had been completed to identify potential cost savings of £200 million a year. An approach had been made to the Department of Trade and Industry and to the Office of Fair Trading to address competition issues "on a confidential basis", a spokesman said.

Both sides were dismayed that the merger talks would not now continue, saying a weekend report had scuppered any hopes of making further progress towards a concrete package that could be put to investors and employees, and to secure the blessing of Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. Only a small number of directors from each company were involved in the talks.

Safeway approached Asda before the general election, when it was believed a Conservative government would not apply competition criteria so rigorously. But under Mrs Beckett the DTI is looking much more closely at competition.

However, pressure is likely to come from institutional investors for Asda and Safeway to promptly revive the merger. Both companies are likely to brief major shareholders this week about the commercial logic behind the talks and how the companies now expect to go forward. Senior managers at Asda and Safeway will demand a detailed breakdown of how the companies expected to achieve such significant savings through a merger.

A £9.2 billion merger of Asda and Safeway would be certain to win the approval of a City hungry for deals, and the expectation that corporate activity in the food retailing sector is imminent will drive shares higher this morning. Asda, whose chief executive is Allan Leighton, ended last week at 164p, close to a 1997 high, while Safeway ended at 396p. Takeover speculation will focus on William Morrison, the regional chain, which also ended the week at a new high of 198p, and Somerfield, which closed at 198½p.

But the prospect of consolidation in the sector is likely to weigh heavily against J Sainsbury, once the market leader but now second to Tesco. Sainsbury shares traded at 467p last week, their highest level for more than 21 months, amid growing evidence that the management is beginning to turn the business around.



Allan Leighton, left, and Colin Smith reluctantly called off negotiations

Americans buy Books etc with plan to expand

By Christine Buckley and Brian MacArthur

THE Americanisation of the UK book market is poised to accelerate after the takeover of Books etc by Borders Group, the US bookselling chain, for an estimated £40 million.

Books etc, the London retailer which was poised for flotation, is to retain its present management to direct the opening of a chain of book superstores. The superstores, which will trade under the Borders name, will run in tandem with an expansion of the traditional Books etc shops. The superstores will also sell music.

The purchase of Books etc will deliver £28 million to the Joseph family, founders of the company. Philip and Richard Joseph, the father and son team, started the business in 1981. Hambros took a 30 per cent stake in 1987.

Richard Joseph, chief executive, said: "After it became public that we were considering a flotation ... we received a tentative approach from Borders. Over the last month it became increasingly clear to the board that Books etc would be best placed to develop in the rapidly changing UK book market as part of Borders.

Robert F. DiRomualdo, chairman and chief operating officer of Borders, said: "For some time we have been looking at entering the UK bookselling market. In Books etc we have found a partner that shares our ambitions."

Although overshadowed by Waterstone's and Dillons, Books etc has been a pacemaker in modern British bookselling. Mr Joseph was determined to bring to Britain the best features of bookshops in the US and the new stores opened recently — notably in Oxford Street and Piccadilly — feature coffee shops with newspapers and magazines and carpeted areas with sofas where buyers can browse through books before they buy.

Mr Joseph persuaded BAA to open a Books etc at Heathrow's Terminal 4. Offering nearly 5,000 books against WH Smith's range of about 800 to 900 bestsellers, Books etc at Heathrow was an instant success.

Within the past six months, Mr Joseph has opened other airport bookshops at Stansted and Edinburgh.

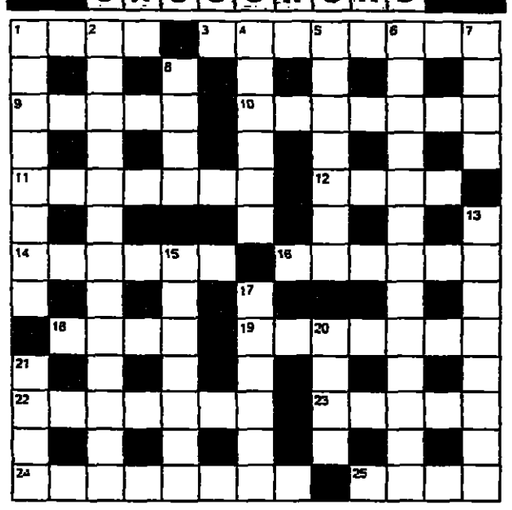
Hotels move at Planet Hollywood

PLANET HOLLYWOOD, the leisure group owned by US film stars, is planning to build a theme hotel with several hundred beds in London near its Piccadilly theme restaurant (Oliver August writes).

Robert Earl, chief executive, said: "After restaurants, we see lodgings as the next place for theming, and you can expect to see more lodging from us as time goes on." Rooms in the hotels be will modelled on sets in famous films.

The group runs 68 Planet Hollywood theme restaurants and eight All Star theme cafes world wide, most franchised. The hotels are likely to be called Official All Star. The first hotel is scheduled for New York in two years.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1211

ACROSS
1 Watch face (4)
3 Treatise: little publication (8)
9 Black doll: my word! (5)
10 Make (brave, vain) attempt (4,1,2)
11 Source of irrational fear (7)
12 Pare: neat (4)
14 Scoop out (eg river mud) (6)
16 Carefree, casual (6)
18 Tiny bit: a Sunday (4)
19 Colouring agent (7)
22 Unpaid (performer) (7)
23 Piece of barrel: — off, avert (5)
24 Calamity (8)
25 Lampoon (4)

DOWN
1 A drudge (8)
2 In dispute (2,11)
4 On the land (6)
5 Crucial (7)
6 Act ignorant of outcome (4,2,3,4)
7 Norse god, wields hammer (4)
8 Part of car: sounds like *lose energy* (4)
13 Priest's robe (8)
15 Rain channels: (candle) flickers (7)
17 Thinly spread (6)
20 Flurry (of wind) (4)
21 Group: stripe (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1210
ACROSS: 6 Predict 7 Broom 9 Shrug 10 Display 11 Raison d'être 14 Draw the line 17 Limpopo 19 Paste 21 Dusty 22 Van Gogh
DOWN: 1 Wear 2 Linguist 3 Studio 4 Ibis 5 Roulette 6 Post 8 Mayhem 11 Rearmost 12 Dripping 13 Addled 15 Evolve 16 Mesh 18 Onyx 20 Slot

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Rival expected to make £1.6bn bid for T&N

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE bid battle for T&N, the motor components group, is set to explode this week, with City analysts expecting a rival offer to value the business in excess of £1.6 billion.

Federal Mogul, the US components group that put T&N in play with a £1.2 billion opening salvo on Friday, looks unlikely to win backing from the company or key institutions. Industry doubts are also gathering over Federal's capacity to fund a higher bid. Its offer is worth 235p a share, against expectations of a rival 300p offer.

But both sides seem committed to T&N staying in one piece amid speculation of pressure to engineer a break-up to maximise value. A spokeswoman for Federal Mogul said: "The company believes that it is a great fit and does not plan major disposals."

Sources close to T&N said that the rejection by Sir Colin Hope, the chairman, of a series of approaches for individual businesses over the past few months indicated he was not now likely to opt for a break-up strategy. But they conceded that a division of European and American operations could be an eventual option. Sir Colin is unlikely to fight a bid to retain independence if the price was judged appropriate. One source said: "Sir Colin is a pragmatist. He has always said he would sell for the right price."

Federal, which has appointed Cazenove as broker and is being advised by Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, is thought to be backed by Chase Manhattan. Federal has a market capitalisation of about £810 million and some observers doubt its ability to up its bid comfortably.

Rock windfall hopes soar

By Marianne Curphey

MEMBERS of Newcastle-based Northern Rock will gain the windfall equivalent of 12 per cent of the average gross annual wage in the North East when the building society floats on Wednesday.

This could explain why nearly half of the 900,000 members have chosen to sell their entire holding of windfall shares in tomorrow's auction, run by Hoare Govett.

The average wage in Newcastle is just under £17,000 a year, compared with £23,600 in London. Each Northern Rock member is entitled to 500 shares, worth around £2,100 at the anticipated price of £4.20 per share.

However, the buoyancy of financial stocks on Friday has led some brokers to predict a much higher price when shares begin trading on Wednesday. This is despite the prospect of nearly half of all members selling out immediately — a move which might have been expected to dampen prices.

Predictions range from a conservative 390p per share, yielding each member £1,950, to more than 460p, which would produce a £2,300 windfall. Investors showed particular enthusiasm for recently converted building societies, including Alliance & Leicester, up 20p to 693½p; Woolwich, up 11½p to 320p and Halifax, rising 16p to 735½p. The most spectacular of the banks was Barclays, which rose 135½p to close the week at £16.64½.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow
In a new weekly column Ros Snowden, left, looks at no-brand advertising

Wednesday
Janet Bush casts her eye over economic issues

Thursday
Bronwen Maddox considers the American agenda

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Clerical Medical	45.50
London & Manchester	50.85
Scottish Life	58.51
We can arrange this for	**22.91 p.m.**

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Abbey National Life	77.58
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Pearl Assurance	99.00
Clerical Medical	111.20
London & Manchester	115.34
Scottish Life	137.40
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